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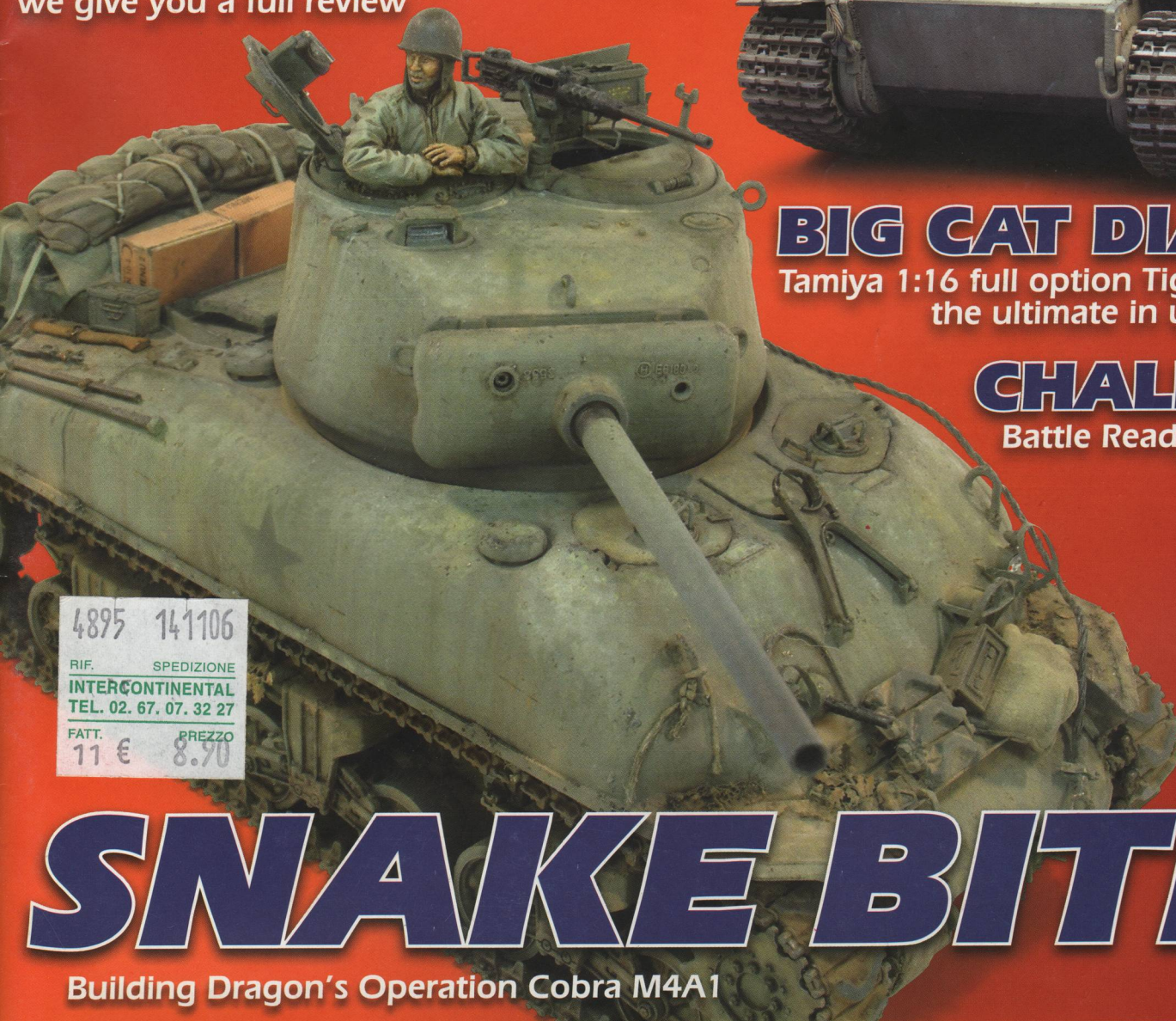


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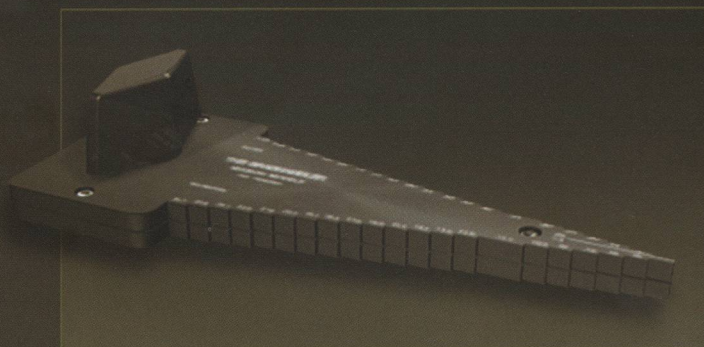


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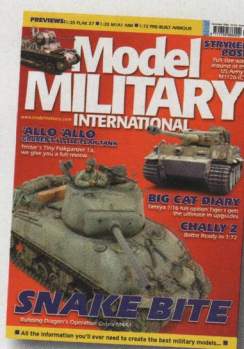
Andy King builds Tristar's little Flak Panzer IA

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We welcome Noel Petroni with his first article for MMI featuring the Italian Semovente SPG

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Mark Neville has a break from German armour to build Dragon's Operation Cobra M4A1 (76mm)



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For additional information, contact Tony Abbott, (803)481-5736, or e-mail acabbott@earthlink.net, www.sumter-shawafb-ipms.org

North Somerset Model Show

Saturday March 17th 2007

The North Somerset Modellers' society (IPMS Somerset) presents the 12th annual model show - a new venue, the Locking Castle Campus, Weston Super Mare; a new day, Saturday.

Open 10.00am to 5 pm with club displays, traders and a model competition. Free parking.

Admission £2.00 adults, £1.00 children, £1.50 concessions.

For more information, traders contact Darren Poyser on 01934 516576, clubs contact Dave Perry on 01761 462864

Scale Modelworld 2006

November 18th / 19th 2006

IPMS Scale Modelworld 2006

to be held at the Telford International Centre Incorporating the IPMS /UK Annual Competition.

Open Saturday from 10.am to 6.00pm and Sunday from 10.00am to 4.00pm (IPMS members' admission from 9.00am)

Expect the usual 100 or so traders and 60 or so club displays including some from overseas.

Ticket prices are:-

a) Adults £9.00 for one day.

b) Senior Citizens and Concessions £6.00 for one day.

c) Children under 16 one day £4.00

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Advance tickets may be purchased from:

The Treasurer, 77 Sutherland Avenue, Petts Wood, Kent BR5 1QY. These tickets will not gain you early entrance but will save you a lot of queuing. Cheques only please made payable to IPMS UK and for one day tickets please state the day you will be visiting the show as tickets are colour coded. IPMS Members free.

For details of how to obtain advance passes to save a lot of queuing visit:

www.ipms-uk.co.uk/scalemodelworld/memberstickets06.htm



PENGUINS CAN FLY!

New from Penguin models is this WWII German glider as used in the famous raid on the Belgian fortress Eben Emael and the rescue of Mussolini. The model is full resin with a nice, clear glazed canopy.

This all ties in very nicely with the Eben book from Ian Allen reviewed in Model Military Issue 6 and Osprey's new book on modelling and painting Fallschirmjäger figures. For more information please check out:

www.penguinmodels.co.uk or Tel 020 8642 4574



INFANTRY AT SEA

New from Milicast is this superb 1:76 waterline model of the Landing Craft Infantry code No. LCILUS, which this craft played a crucial role during the invasion of Normandy. The model has been built by master model maker Dan Taylor, it measuring some 650mm in length. The kit comes with a comprehensive instruction booklet with painting illustrations in colour, a sheet of Brass Frets that includes gun shields, gun sights, etc., Brass Rod and a full set of optional decals.

For more info please contact Milicast direct on (44 (0)141 633 1400) or visit their web site www.milicast.com



HILUX FROM MIG PRODUCTIONS

I'm sure this new full resin kit of the ubiquitous Toyota Hilux will jump straight to the top of many modellers' wants list. The Toyota Hilux has been employed by all nations utilized by both militia and Special Forces in practically all modern conflicts, making it perfect for so many uses. The MIG Productions Hilux contains standard wheels and numerous accessories. These accessories include a DUSHKA machine gun and its mount, five extra ammunition boxes, modern fuel cans and an AK-47.

We look forward to giving you a full review as soon as we get one.



ON THE PLAIN

Here is a really great website for anyone interested in modern British army on exercise on Salisbury Plain hence the web address of 'plain-military'. The site is packed with really great reference shots of all current equipment in use with British army and Support Helicopter Command. There is also a welcome section featuring some of the foreign visitors and their vehicles making this site a must for fans of modern armour. My thanks go to Gary Norris for passing on the link to this excellent site. www.plain-military.com

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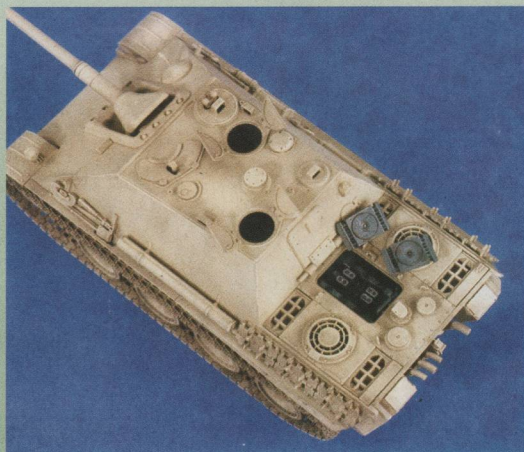
Historex Agents

November Releases 2006

2334 French Tankers 1940 (2 Figures) 1:35



2330 Panther/Jagdpanther Engine Drop In (Tamiya) 1:48

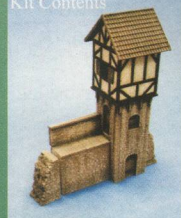


2335 Iraq: The Bad Ones (2 Figures) 1:35

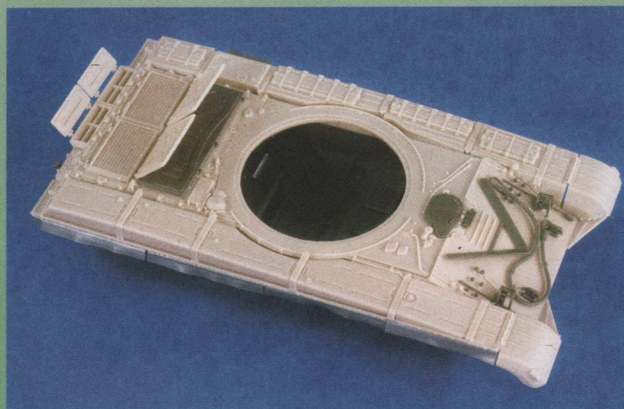


2332 Medieval Castle Part II 1:48

Kit Contents



2331 88mm PAK 43 1:48



2333 T72 Full New Upper Hull (Tamiya) 1:35



2336 Afrika Korps
(1 Full + 2 Half Figures)
1:35



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SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

David Knight continues his look at these increasingly popular pre-finished 1:72 models, ideal for the wargamer and collector alike...



DRAGON ARMOUR

SD.Kfz.251 AUSF.C

SCALE: 1:72 • ITEM NO. 60229

This model is one of a series of Sd.Kfz.251s that Dragon produce. This one represents a half track from the Großdeutschland Inf. Div. on the Eastern Front in 1942. The standard of detail on this pre-painted model is over and above what I've come to expect from Dragon, the interior and under-chassis detail is very good. The detail on the tracks is the best I've seen on such a pre-painted model for a long time.

10/10 - David Knight

Available from all good model shops.

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www.amerang-group.com

DRAGON ARMOUR

SD.Kfz.181 AUSF. H1

SCALE: 1:72 • ITEM NO. 60001

This model is a superb representation of the Tiger used by celebrated tank commander Michael Wittmann on the Eastern Front in 1944. It is one of a series of thirteen that Dragon now produce. The standard of painting on this vehicle is to the level to be expected by this company. Although it does not extend to the undersides of the chassis but I presume that Dragon does not think that the vehicle will come off its base? However, this can be easily remedied by some by careful weathering.

10/10 - David Knight

Available from all good model shops.

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www.amerang-group.com

EASY MODEL

GROUND ARMOUR (WW II) SERIES
MAUS (SUPER PANZER)

SCALE: 1:72 • ITEM NO. 36204

The model of the Maus or "travelling bunker" is well executed it looks as though it's been cast from metal whilst the camouflage and weathering have been well executed and follow current techniques in use by many modellers. In conclusion, this is a very nice model and would fit into any "what if" diorama. For me the gentlemen behind Trumpeter Mr. Wong and Mr. Ho have shown great imagination and the desire to produce something special.

9/10 - David Knight

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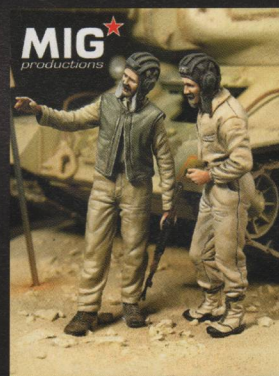
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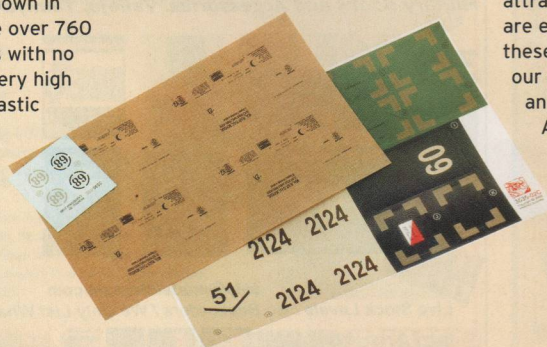
MAKE MINE AN ABRAMS

Paul Egerton finally gets his hands on the long awaited M1A1 AIM from Dragon, but was it worth the wait...?

At last, Dragon has applied their latest kit production techniques to a modern AFV rather than the seemingly never ending run of WWII German armour. The result, as with all of their recent offerings, is a superb kit that can be built into a stunning representation of the vehicle straight from the box and at a very reasonable price by today's standards.

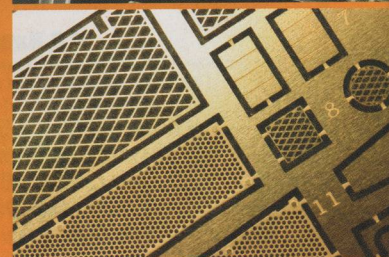
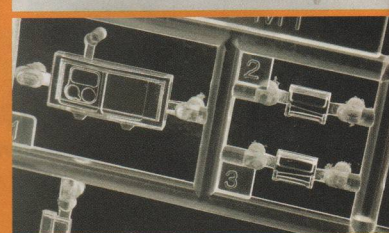
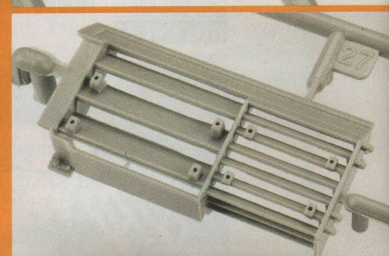
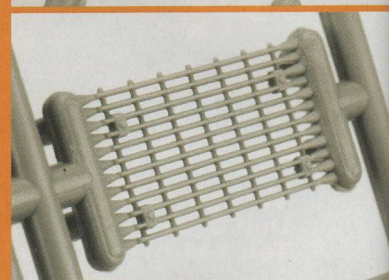
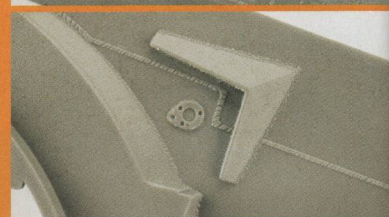
The box is crammed full of 'stuff' - no rattle space here as with some of the big box small content kits I have known in the past. Included are over 760 crisply moulded parts with no trace of flash and a very high level of detail (fine plastic grills, alternative smoke dischargers, shackles, non slip hull surface, MG ammo belt etc etc). The tracks are of the individual link

variety that clip together and look great (Magic Track). There is a sprue of clear plastic holding the various lenses, vision blocks, periscopes and hub caps. As with all of Dragon's latest kits, there are etched brass grills, tie down points, clamps, straps etc that add to the already high level of detail. An aluminium barrel is provided together with fine steel mudguard springs, brackets and a recoil spring. To top it off, a length of braided metal towrope is thrown in. What more could you ask for?



Decals are provided for no less than nine different vehicles from three Infantry Divisions in both desert and temperate camouflage schemes. Other nice touches are the inclusion of self-adhesive identification panels in what looks like a thin PVC material and MRE cartons of the paper cut and fold variety.

All in all, this is an outstanding kit with an amazing level of detail. Everything that all but the most extreme 'rivet counter' could want is included and at a very attractive price. We modellers are extremely fortunate in having these technological marvels for our entertainment. If you have any interest at all in modern AFVs buy this kit and let's hope that this is the first of many modern (or even WWII Allied!!) vehicles to this standard. ■



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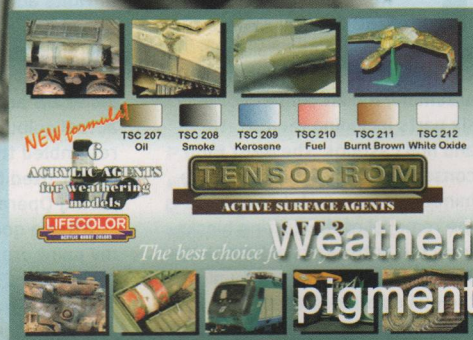
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Model painted by Brian Balkwill with an Iwata airbrush and LifeColor paints

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GO TELIC TO THE CHALLENGER

The Editor builds another of Cromwell Models Battle Ready range of 1:72 armour.

Following on from the last Cromwell Models Battle Ready model, the IDF M60 Batash, we now turn our attention to the Challenger 2, which could not be easier to assemble, the kit consists of only six parts including the turret and hull castings. The most time consuming part of the of the five minutes it literally takes to build is the removal of the casting blocks from the bottom of each track run. These are best removed by placing the hull on a piece of abrasive paper which has been taped down onto a flat surface. The model is then moved over the sand paper in a figure of eight pattern and if done carefully will result in the blocks being removed nice and evenly.

PAINTING

With only the main gun, hatches and the loaders machine gun to attach, the 'Chally' was now

ready to paint and to do this the model was first given a base coat of Holts automotive grey primer. The model was then checked for any blemishes, then given a pre-shading coat of Vallejo Brown violet 88 before I decided on the actual colour that I thought most resembled the yellow based sand colour used by the British forces during Operation Telic.

After a good rummage through my paint drawer I opted to use Vallejo Sand Yellow 916 and this was misted over the entire model, whilst concentrating on the centre of all the panels etc, so the brown base colour would show through around the edges. The process was then repeated with a couple of drops of Vallejo white.

DETAILING

Detail painting involved painting the dust skirts in Medium Grey 987. The fire extinguishers,

headlights and taillights along with the commander and loaders hatch interiors were all carefully painted using a fine brush. To finish off I had to search my decal spares box for some chevrons and call signs and luckily I had some Archer dry-rubs for an M1 Abrams in 1:72 which contained some chevrons that were perfect for the side armour panels. I was also fortunate to have a set of Accurate Armour 1:35 decals for Challenger 2 MBTs which contained a couple of small call signs, which fitted perfectly on the turret sides.

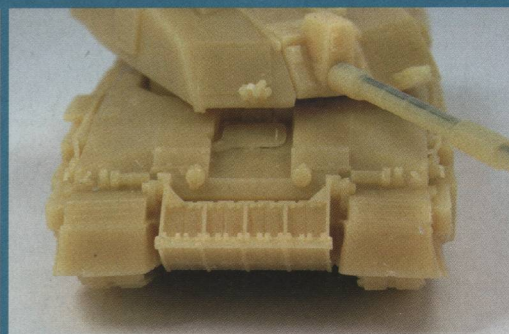
CONCLUSION

Another quick and simple build, which has been highly enjoyable and a pleasant change from my usual 1:35 detailed projects. I think everyone should try at least one of these as they are a great way to build up a collection and practice those painting techniques. ■





Considering these models are designed with the wargamer in mind, the level of detail incorporated in the casting is first class. Careful painting will really bring the best out of the detail.



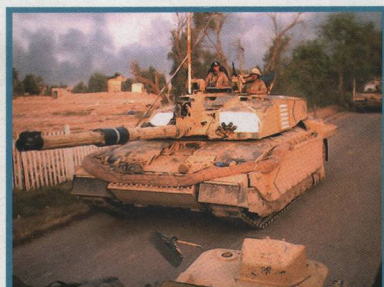
Front view showing the up-armor kit. The dark line running along the barrel is the steel reinforcing rod to keep the barrel nice and straight.



With just the main gun and the two turret hatches to attach the construction is soon completed and the model is now ready for painting.



Vallejo Brown Violet was used to base coat the model and act as the pre-shade to the desert sand finish.



The real thing seen in Southern Iraq in 2003. Careful inspection of this photo shows how badly the sand coloured paint has worn off all the horizontal surfaces. (Photo Gareth Sebburn)



The Challenger 2 has now received its overall coat of Vallejo Sand Yellow, after the initial coat a few drops of white were added to a some tonal variation to the monotone scheme.



Detail painting has almost been completed at this stage. As no markings are supplied in the kit I had to source them from the spares box.



Even in 1:72 scale, the British Army's Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank looks imposing.

Modelspec

Cromwell 1:72 Challenger 2 Up-armoured

Kit No.CR2023

Materials

Iwata HP-C Plus Double action Airbrush
Archer Dry-rub Decals for 1:72 M1 Abrams AR72193
Accurate Armour Waterslide 1:35 Decal sheet for Challenger 2 DEK053.

Paints used

All paints were from the Model Color and Model Air range:
Vallejo Brown Violet 887, Sand Yellow 916, White 951, Black/Grey 862, Red 947, Medium Grey 987, Russian Green 894, Mig Productions Filter for Tri-tonal camo P242 (Tan), Mig Productions Beach Sand pigment.

- ☒ Simple to build, crisp clean casting.
- ☒ Large casting plug to be removed from bottom of the tracks.

Available from

Cromwell Models - www.cromwellmodels.com

Rating ●●●●●●●○



DEADLY "88"

We try our hardest to keep up with Dragon's incredible release schedule by taking a look at their box-bulging Flak 37.

This is the second incarnation of Dragon's wonderful 88mm gun, this time around parts are included to build the final Flak 37 model.

The first thing that impressed me was the box art, not from the usual masterly hand of Ron Volstad, who must be burning the candle at both ends(!), but from Barry Crook, who's made an appearance on a few of Dragons box tops now and who's style works perfectly. Great impact & accurately detailed.

As expected, in addition to the new sprues G, H, K and U, the kit includes most of the sprues from the original kit. Some with slight alterations. Also included are four

etched frets, two short lengths of chain, three turned brass rounds and two turned aluminium empty shell cases. Also in turned aluminium are two telescoping equilibrator cylinders, as an option to the fixed position plastic parts.

Two sheets of decals are supplied, one giving balkenkreuz, shipping stencils and divisional markings, the other giving kill markings, tyre pressure and dial faces.

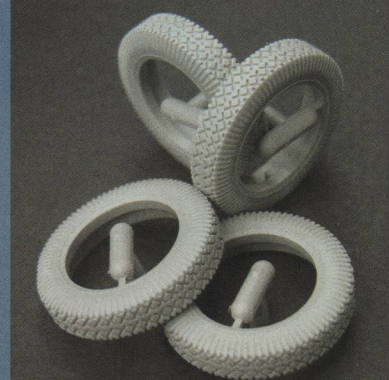
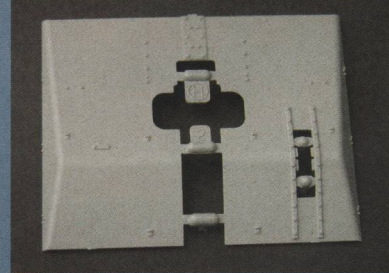
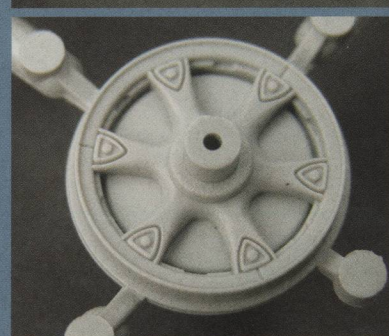
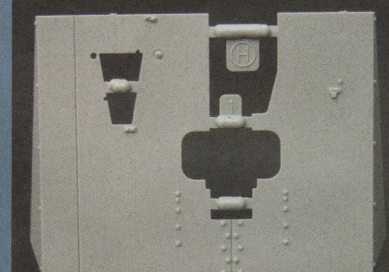
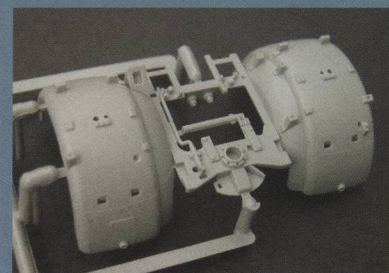
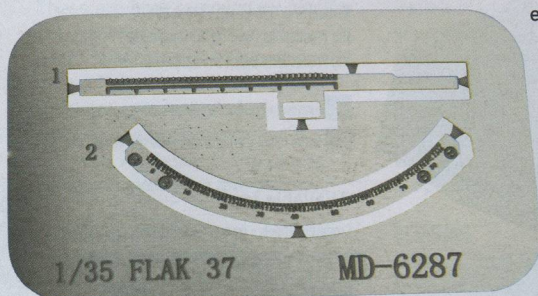
Further choices are given for the barrels and gun shields, both Flak 36/37 and Flak 18 barrels are offered in turned aluminium and plastic, with the plastic ones being rifled. Similarly with the gun shields, you have the option of the original Flak 36 gun shield with separate side extensions, a one piece shield, with extensions moulded in place, or the final pressed shield, with its distinctive rounded edges. One of the easiest

ways to differentiate between the Flak 36 & 37, is by its style of fuse setters and dials. While the Flak 36 had its fire control instruments on round dials, the later Flak 37 had them set into rectangular boxes and Dragon have made a great job of reproducing these. The box fronts are supplied on a clear sprue, with the dial faces themselves printed onto the reverse side, very clever and very effective!

The tyres are also approached differently this time around, instead of the multipart lamination given with the flak 36, this time the tyres are slide-moulded in one piece, with the tyres showing the distinctive 'X' type tread, add to this a very subtle flat spot at the bottom and you have for some of the most realistic looking tyres I've seen.



As with the Flak 36, another stand-out feature are the bogies, these have an incredible amount of detail and are small models in themselves, just the thing for filling that empty corner of a diorama.....

Definitely another winner from Dragon. ■



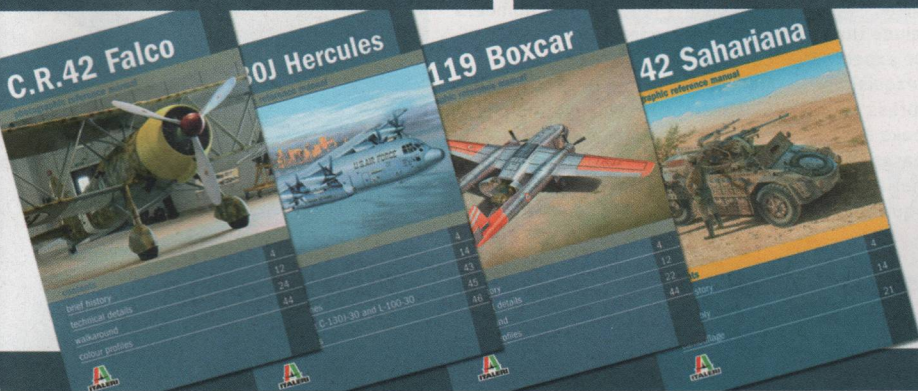
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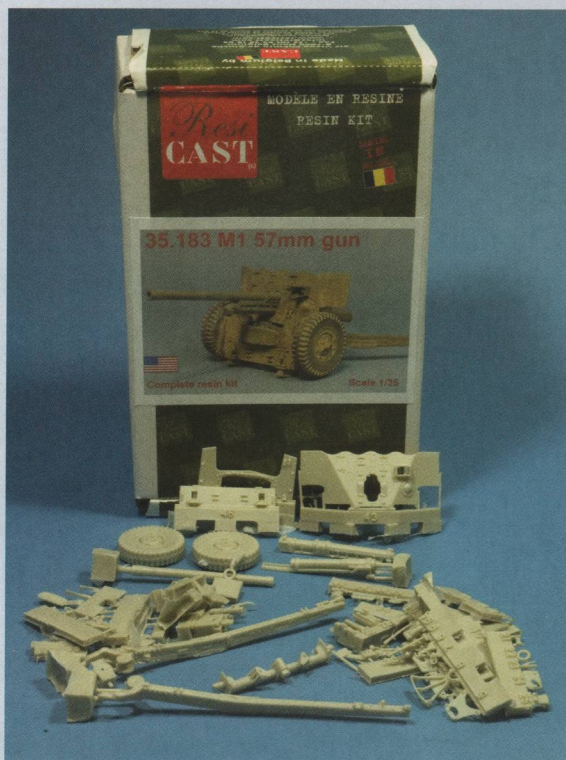
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PANZER POUNDERS

Two great Allied anti-tank guns from Resicast.

Allied anti-tank weapons, although not an oversight by the mainstream plastic manufacturers (Tamiya and Italeri have produced these subjects in the past and are still available), are often seen in my mind by kit manufacturers as less glamorous subject matter. However the contribution of Allied anti-tank weapons during WWII deserves greater recognition by the modelling community. Accurate Armour produce the 17 Pounder weapon, Sovereign 2000 produce the 2 Pounder and now Resicast have taken the plunge in producing a series of weapons based upon the 6 Pounder anti-tank gun. The two guns that are the subject of this review are soon

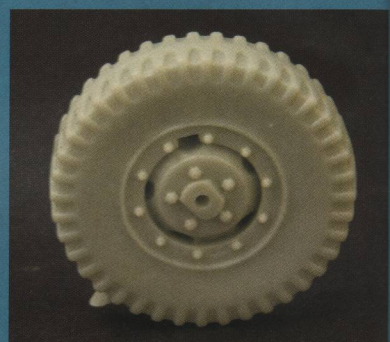
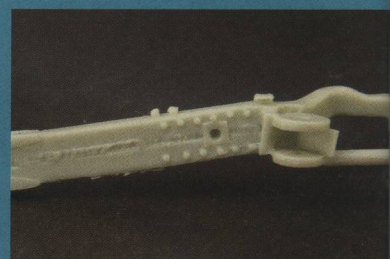
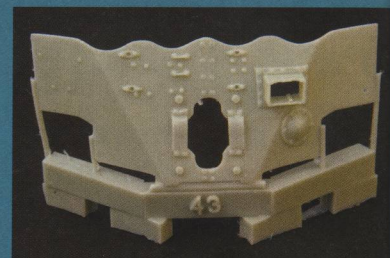
to be joined by a third variant, an airborne version with split trail arms amongst many other modifications

Each stout cardboard box contains several plastic bags crammed full of a multitude of parts (there are over 100 resin parts, including a few spares, as well as a brass fret, thread and plastic rod). The parts are cast in the familiar light green resin, the casting process so good that there is no evidence of air bubbles or mould slippage. The brass fret does not include the gun shields as might be expected (these are cast, quite exquisitely, in resin). Produced in brass are various clamps, hooks and straps as well as the bases to the ammunition casings that are also provided in resin. The gun shield

of the 6 Pounder Mk IV example provided was slightly mis-shaped but nothing that a some gentle application of heat from a hairdryer won't sort out.

Instructions are provided in the familiar booklet style. I have often criticised Resicast instructions but this time Resicast have succeeded in producing something much more useful than previous. No textual instructions are provided with either kit. However photographs with clearly labelled part numbers guide the modeller throughout construction. Photographs of the real thing and field manual illustrations provide additional reference for the modeller.

These are an exciting addition to Resicast's portfolio of excellent kits. ■



Keith Goldsworthy



for
great
value models



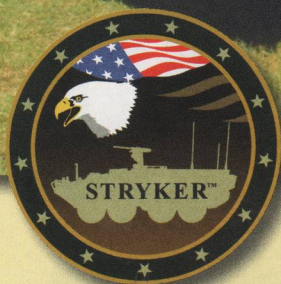
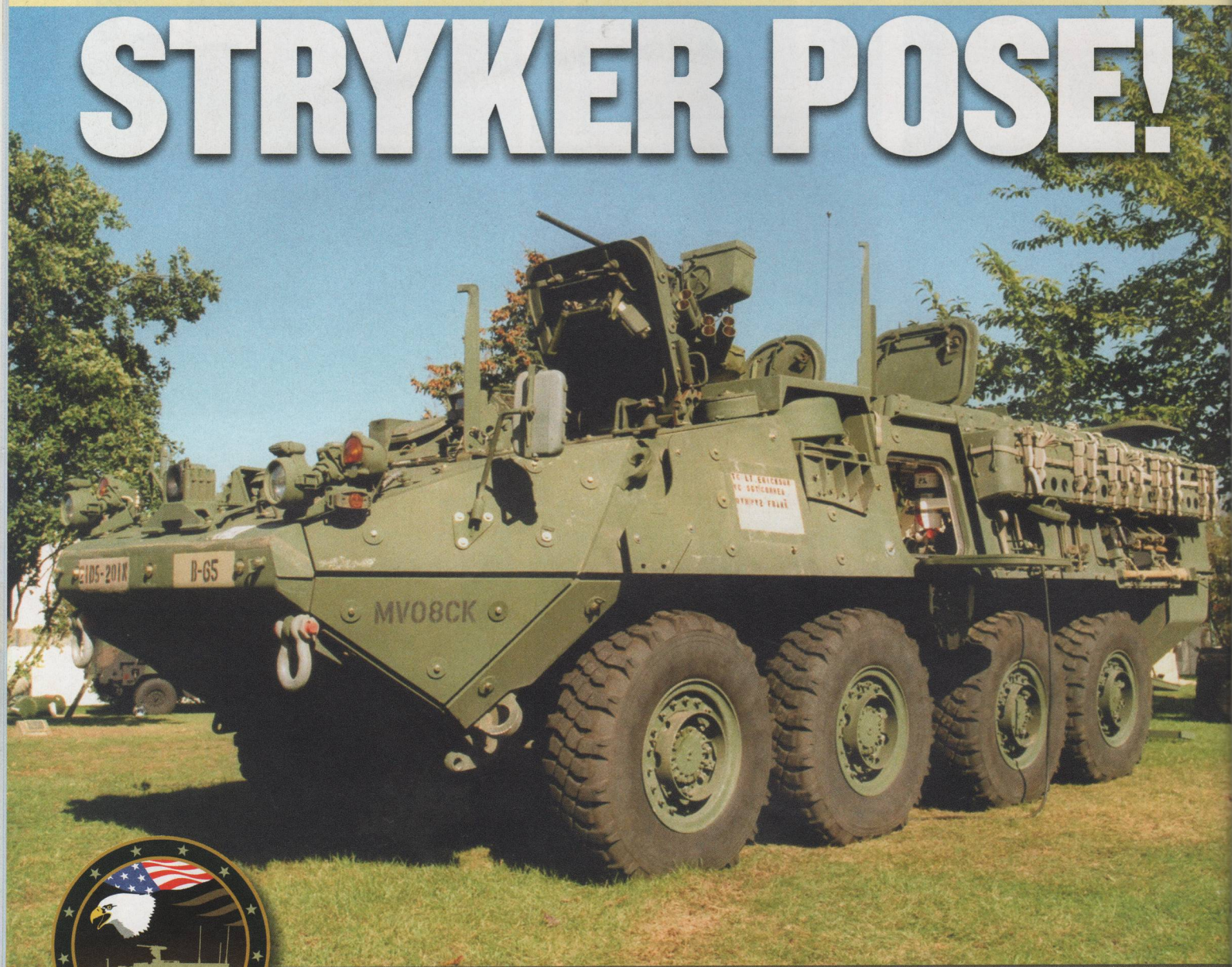
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References - The M1126 Stryker ICV

STRYKER POSE!



Ralph Zwilling offers some more of his amazing walk arounds this time on the US Army's new M1126 Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV).

The Stryker Interim Armoured Vehicle (IAV), also known as the Light Armoured Vehicle III (LAV III), is based on the Piranha III produced by MOWAG of Switzerland. The primary design of the IAV, built for the U.S. Army by GM GDLS, a joint venture set up by General Motors Defence of Canada and General Dynamics Land Systems Division of USA, has two variants: The Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV) and the Mobile Gun System (MGS). The contract for the U.S. Army's IAV was originally awarded in November 2000. At the moment contract requirements cover the supply of 2,559 vehicles, which will be fielded in seven Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCTs). General

Motors Defence and GDLS are sharing the fabrication and final assembly of the vehicles among plants at Anniston, Alabama; Lima, Ohio; and London, Ontario. On 27 February 2002 the new IAV was named after Specialist E4 Robert F. Stryker, who received the Medal of Honour for his actions during the Vietnam War and Private First Class Stuart S. Stryker, who received the award for his actions during World War II. Both men were killed in action and were not related to each other. Deliveries of Stryker infantry carriers began from General Motors London, Ontario, plant in March and General Dynamics Anniston, Alabama, facility in April 2002.

The Stryker variants include the M1126 Infantry Carrier Vehicle

(ICV) and the M1128 Mobile Gun System (MGS). Currently there are eight configurations of the ICV including the M1127 Reconnaissance Vehicle (RV), M1129 Mortar Carrier Vehicle B (MCV-B), M1130 Commander's Vehicle (CV), M1131 Fire Support Vehicle (FSV), M1132 Engineer Squad Vehicle (ESV), M1133 Medical Evacuation Vehicle (ESV), M1134 Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and the M1135 NBC Reconnaissance Vehicle (NBCRV). The common chassis results in an 85 percent parts commonality simplifying repairs and reducing logistical support requirements.

The Stryker IAV is a full-time four-wheel drive/selectively eight-wheel drive wheeled armoured vehicle. Its armour protection kit

consist of a hull made up from of 160 hardened steel plates that are welded together, 132 lightweight ceramic/composite tiles and a Kevlar spall liner providing the vehicle with the capability to withstand fire from infantry weapons up to 14.5 mm, 152 mm HE Airburst, as well as mortar and artillery fragments. Made by the German company IBD, the tiles are of the MEXAS 2 type. However, these tiles leave the Stryker Interim Armoured Vehicle very vulnerable to attacks from deadly RPG-7 anti-tank weapons that are widely used by Iraqi insurgents. All Strykers deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom were fitted with additional armour to cope with the RPG threat. The 2.361 kg Slat



▼ This M1126 Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle belonging to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division "Indian Head" from Fort Lewis, Washington was seen at the Logistical Supply Area Anaconda in June 2004.

▲ All Strykers deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom were fitted with additional armour to cope with the RPG threat.



Armour, looking like a large cage fitted around the vehicle, was developed to detonate the RPG warhead before it can reach the vehicle's hull. In March 2005, BAE Systems Land and Armaments was awarded a contract to provide 289 full-vehicle add-on reactive armor kits for the Stryker.

A M1126 ICV can transport a crew of two soldiers together with nine infantrymen. The driver sitting in the modern cockpit located at the front left of the chassis can access the armoured hull through a large single-piece hatch opening vertically. This hatch includes three M17 periscopes for driving under armoured protection. The Raytheon AN/VAS-5 Driver's Vision Enhancer (DVE), whose monitor is located just in front

of the drivers' steering wheel, can be used for operations at night or during low visibility. A 350 hp water-cooled Caterpillar 6-cylinder diesel engine, with its 7.2-litre displacement, exhaust turbocharger, inter-cooling and electronic fuel injection, provides the 18.3 ton vehicle a maximum speed of more than 100 km/h. The powerful engine, located in a separate compartment at the front right of the chassis, is connected to an Allison MD 3066 automatic transmission with six forward gears and one reverse gear. The Stryker's power train consists of a two-speed transfer case and four automotive differentials. The two fuel cells holding a total fuel capacity of 200 litres provide a cruising range of up to 530 km.

The vehicles hydro-pneumatic suspension includes an advanced height management system. Its brake system is made of power brakes and ABS on the rear three axles. To enhance the mobility when moving on different types of soil like sand, mud or snow, the Stryker IAVs are fitted with a Central Tire Inflation System (CTIS), the tyres can be inflated or deflated by the driver from inside the vehicle under armor protection. Furthermore, the Stryker's Michelin XML 12.00 R20 tyres have run-flat-inserts maintaining mobility when the tyres are punctured.

The commander's station located directly behind the engine compartment on the right side of the hull is equipped with seven M45 periscopes and the fire

control unit for the M151 Remote Weapon Station (RWS) built by Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace. The RWS, mounted in the centre of the vehicle directly in front of the commanders hatch, can be fitted with either a 40mm Mk-19 Mod3 Automatic Grenade Launcher or a .50 cal M2 HB Machine Gun in its universal soft-mount cradle. There are also four 66 mm M6 smoke grenade launchers installed in front of the RWS. Operated from under armour, the Remote Weapon Station is fitted with a Thermal Imaging Module (TIM) built by Thales Optronics Canada and Visual Imaging Module (VIM) with a CCD camera for sighting. In August 2005, Kongsberg awarded BAE Systems a contract to supply the TIM1500 uncooled thermal imaging ▶



References - The M1126 Stryker ICV



▼ To protect the M1126 Stryker ICV from deadly Rocket Propelled Grenades, the Slat Armour is fitted all around the vehicle.

▲ Each Stryker Infantry Company consists of a Company Headquarters, Mobile Gun System Platoon, Mortar Section, Medical Evacuation Team, Fire Support Team, Sniper Team and three Rifle Platoons. Each Rifle Platoon consists of four M1126 Stryker ICVs.



◀ camera for the RWS. Currently, the RWS still lacks a weapon stabilization system and a laser range finder making it very hard to fire on the move or to identify target ranges properly.

The soldiers enter and leave the large troop compartment, situated in the rear of the vehicle and providing space for up to nine fully equipped soldiers, through a large power-operated rear ramp. The infantrymen sit along the walls of the hull facing inward. There are two single piece hatches opening to the left and right in the roof above the rear troop compartment. These hatches are large enough to allow a soldier to stand in each one and use his weapon. To protect its crew, the Stryker IAV

has an advanced fire suppression system consisting of the FM200 automated fire suppression module for the troop compartment and two FM25 automated fire suppression modules for the engine compartment. Furthermore, the vehicle is fitted with a Rotzler Treibmatic self-recovery winch and a reliable NBC protection system consisting of a GID-3 Chemical Detector, AN/VDR-2 Radiacmeter and a ventilated face mask system. At this time not all Stryker IAVs are fitted with an air-conditioning system.

Each Stryker is equipped with a Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems (SINCGARS), an AN/PSN-11 Precision Lightweight GPS

Receivers and the FBCB 2 (Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below) digital communications system including the Raytheon AN/TSQ-158 Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS). FBCB 2 allows the vehicle commander to communicate with text messages and transmit tactical information by marking them on a digital map. Furthermore, vital tactical information such as enemy positions and minefields and the position of friendly troops, are displayed on the digital map. There is another Squad Leader Video Display Terminal right of the commander's FBCB 2 monitor which can be used to display the DVE and the FBCB 2 providing situational awareness

for the Squad Leader and his eight infantrymen.

One of the key factors in the Stryker doctrine is the rapid deployment capability of the units equipped with the Stryker IAVs. Each of the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams is self-sufficient, as powerful as a tank battalion, and able to be deployed by air anywhere in the world within 96 hours. Due to its relatively low combat weight a single Stryker can be transported within a C-130J Hercules. Other cargo aircraft that can transport the Stryker are the C-17 Globemaster III (three vehicles) and the C-5Y Galaxy (four vehicles). So far, about 75 percent of the 2.559 Strykers ordered, have been delivered. ■



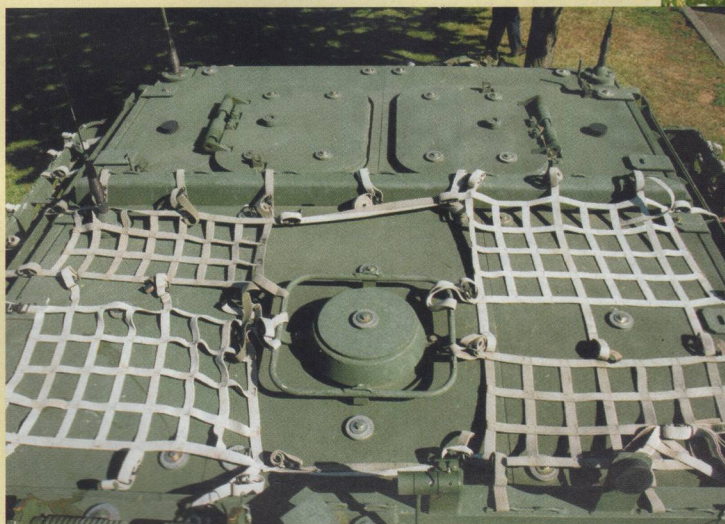
▲ The space between the vehicle's hull and the Slat Armour is mostly used to store equipment as the interior of the Stryker IAV is very small.



▲ To enhance mobility when moving on different types of soil like sand, mud or snow, the Stryker IAVs are fitted with a Central Tyre Inflation System (CTIS) made by Eaton/Dana Corporation. Furthermore the Stryker's Michelin XML I2.00 R20 tyres have run-flat-inserts maintaining mobility when the tyres are punctured.



▲ The vehicle's hydro-pneumatic suspension includes an advanced height management system. Its brake system is made of power brakes and ABS on the rear three axles. The Stryker IAV is a full-time four-wheel drive/selectively eight-wheel drive wheeled armoured vehicle.



▲ The upper hull in detail. Note the two roof hatches and the straps to secure equipment.



▲ As the Stryker's crew compartment is very small, most of the equipment is stored outside of the hull. Note the side armor plates providing protection from infantry weapons up to 14,5 mm, 152 mm HE Airburst, as well as mortar and artillery fragments.



References - The M1126 Stryker ICV



▲ The M151 Remote Weapon Station, mounted in the centre of the vehicle directly in front of the commanders hatch, can be fitted with either a 40mm Mk-19 Mod3 Automatic Grenade Launcher or a 12.7 mm M2 HB Machine Gun in its universal soft-mount cradle.



▲ Each M1126 Stryker ICV carries either 2000 cal.50 rounds for the M2 Machine Gun or 340 40 mm grenades for the Mk-19 Mod Automatic Grenade Launcher. Note the spare wheel located left of the Remote Weapon Station mount.



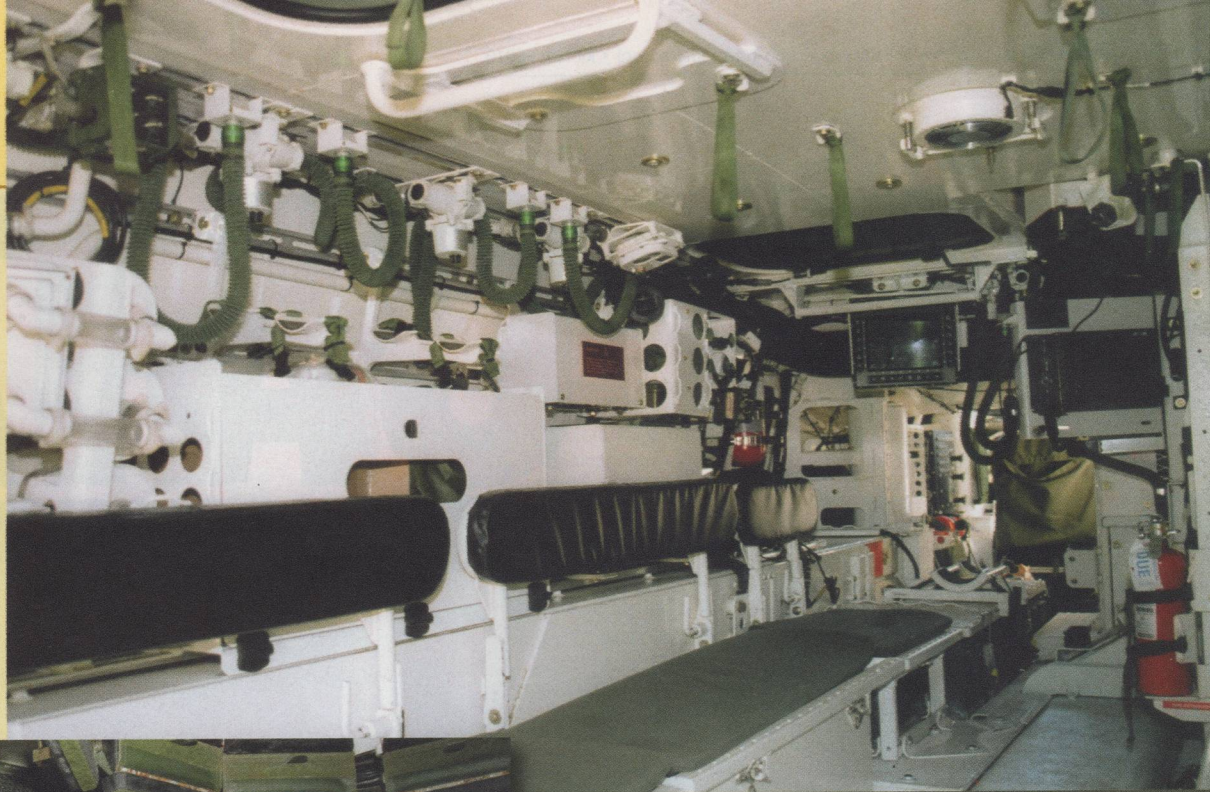
▲ There are four 66 mm M6 smoke grenade launchers installed in front of the RWS. Note the Thermal Imaging Module (TIM) in the centre of the Remote Weapon Station and the Visual Imaging Module (VIM) with a CCD camera above.



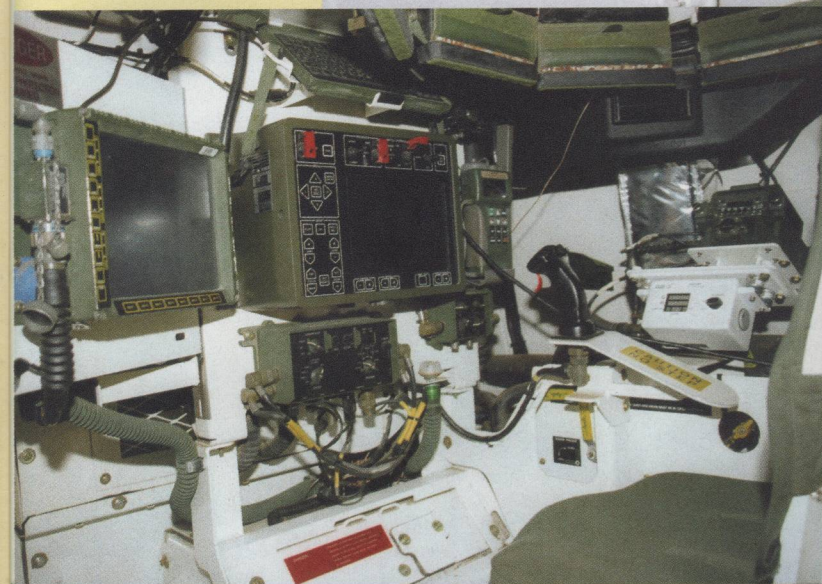
▲ There are two single piece hatches opening to the left and right on the roof above the rear troop compartment. These hatches are large enough to allow a soldier to stand in each one and use his weapon. Note the ammunition boxes and the water bottles stored on the vehicle.

The Slat Armour side mounts in detail. ►

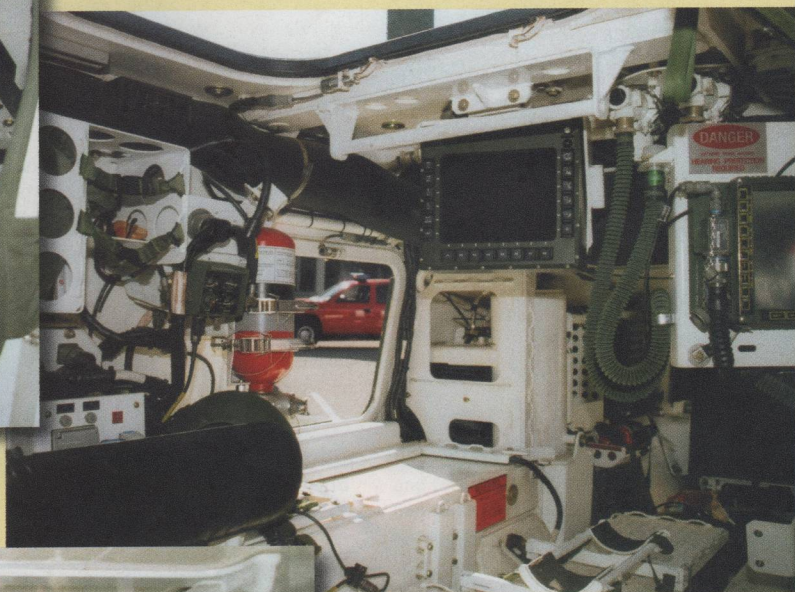




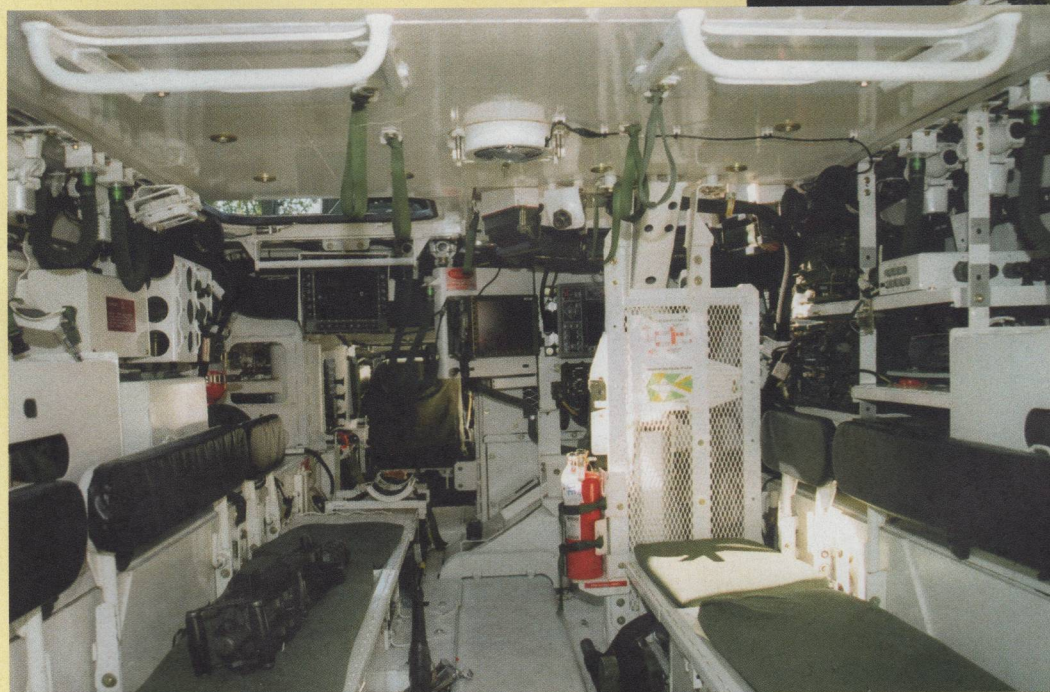
▲ The M1126 Stryker ICV has a NBC protection system consisting of a GID-3 Chemical Detector, AN/VDR-2 Radiacmeter and a ventilated face mask system. At this time not all Stryker IAVs are fitted with an air-conditioning system.



▲ This photo shows the commander's fire control unit for the M151 Remote Weapon Station in the centre, the FBCB 2 terminal on the left and the AN/PSN-11 PLGR on the right. Note the RWS joystick to the right of the commander's seat.



▲ There is another Squad Leader Video Display Terminal to the right of the commander's FBCB 2 monitor which can be used to display the DVE and the FBCB 2 providing situational awareness for the Squad Leader and his eight infantrymen.



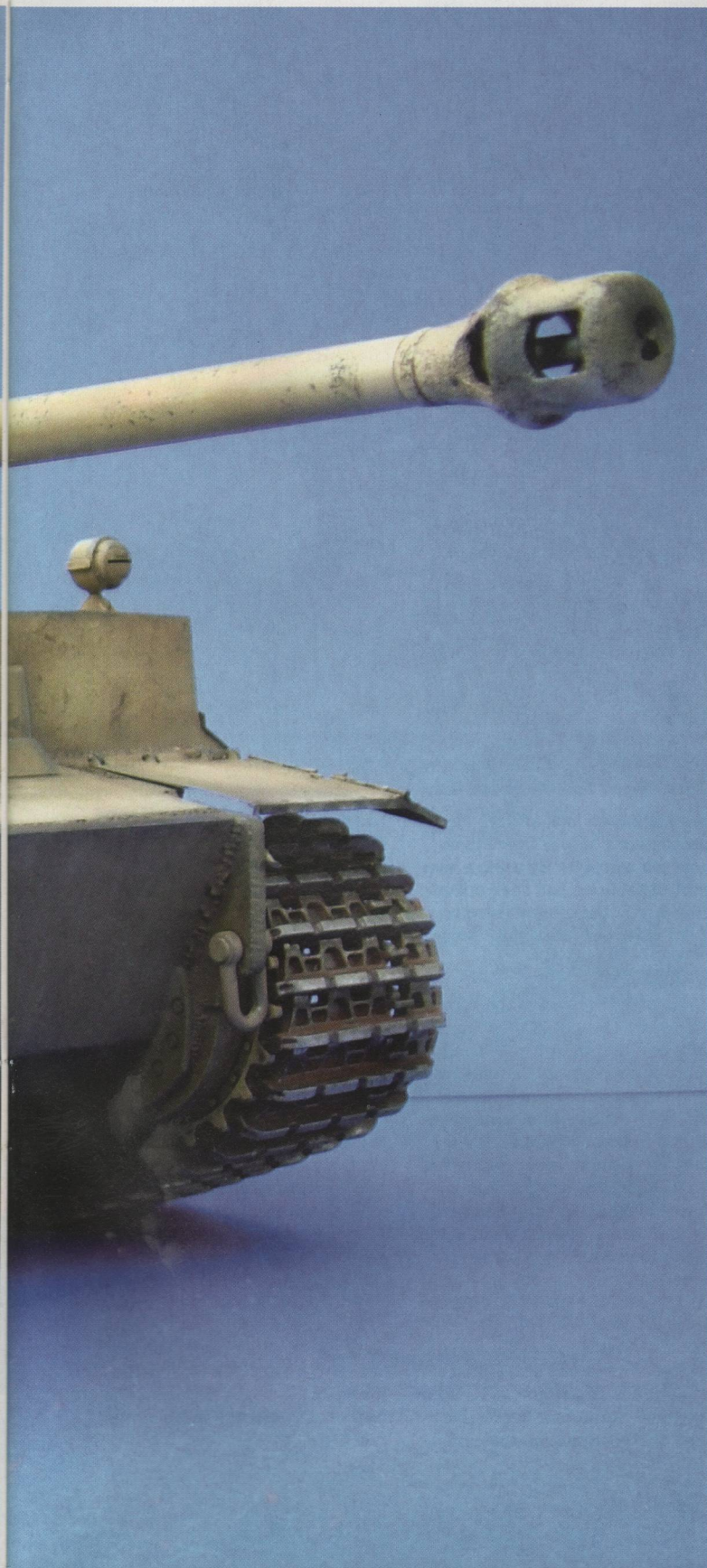
▲ The Infantry Squad Leader is located on the left while the Vehicle Commander's position is on the right side of the crew compartment.

BIG CAT D

Frank Helmling describes how he made every effort to achieve 'scale reality' with 'Tiger 314'.



IARY



Yes folks, yet another Tiger! But this time it's 1:16 and it features some alterations and hop ups, which are hopefully new to most of you. As I have a strong interest not only in the authentic looks of a scale model but also for an authentic mechanical behaviour as it is an R/C tank, I looked for some mechanical upgrades for Tamiya's Full Option (FO) kit, and found nothing! So I decided to produce my own and therefore founded with two partners the company Wechoe. Since "Tiger 314" underwent some major mechanical upgrades, I will handle them in the Assembly and Mechanical upgrades sections for those of you who are interested not only in 314's static appearance.

THE PROBLEMS

As a professional model maker I have built a number of FO Tigers over the last 4 years and therefore know this kit and the available aftermarket products inside out. What should I say about the Tiger kit itself? It's Tamiya! Which I think we all realise means quality. Even though, whilst building these Tigers out of the box, I faced three problems, two of which are to do with mechanical behaviour and one concerning their visual appearance.

First of all the models running speed is way too fast to accurately mimic the real thing, secondly the recoil movement of the 88mm main gun is too slow and lastly the model just doesn't have a weighty feel when traversing over uneven ground. To me this is the biggest problem with smaller scale, light weight R/C tanks. With regards to its appearance, I think the armour plate texture and weld seams need to be improved over the entire model. An injection plastic model of this size could also really benefit from decent photo-etched detail set.

I therefore drew up a list of what I needed to add to the basic Tamiya Tiger, these included:

- Texturing all surfaces.
- Altering the look of the basic kit to represent "Tiger 314".
- Adding most of ABER's complete Tiger set.
- Changing the kit's suspension to Wechoe's "Corleis" system.
- Adding substantial weight to make the tiger "heavy", as I am a strong believer in what should behave heavy, should be heavy.
- Adding metal tracks.
- Doing some kind of gearbox modification and motor-tuning.
- Upgrade the recoil system.

THE SOLUTIONS

To clear one thing first, the people at Tamiya did a good job with their overall package of the drive train!

But my aim this time was to copy the performance and mechanical behaviour of the real vehicle, creating some sort of "scale reality"!

Which requirements should be suited by the gears and suspension? How should it be done? To explain the situation, I want to talk about some physical facts:

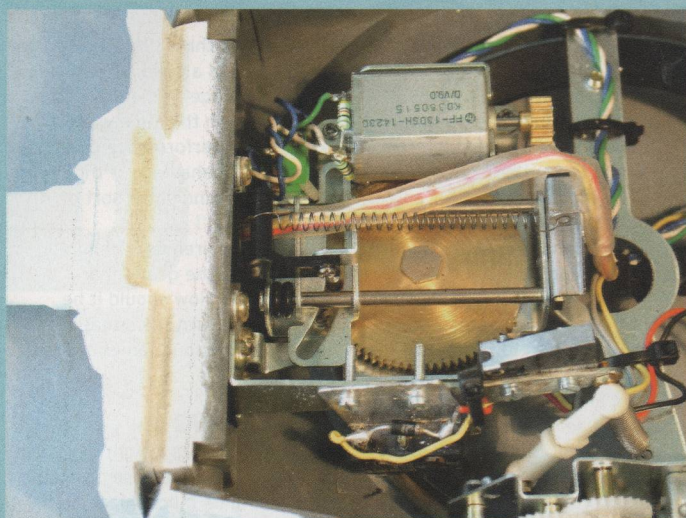
HOW A TIGER MOVED

The Tiger with its weight of almost 56 tons, faced immense problems concerning its mechanical reliability and therefore its manoeuvrability. So forget about pivot turns at high speed and fast cross-country runs. Actually, any steering action had to be a rather calculated task, or the gears and the final drive system would have been almost instantly ruined. So in most cases, imagine the Tiger as a rather slow tank which had to move around on the battlefield carefully. The tank commander had to observe the terrain precisely for suitable passage, which must have been a very difficult job during the heat of battle!

To simulate this kind of performance, as much additional weight as possible was necessary, a set metal tracks would also add to this and of course they further enhanced the realism because they sag in the same way the real tracks do, therefore they are a must! Metal tracks and additional weight both provide heavy stress and torque requirements on the gearboxes and motors even more so while the tank is being driven slowly. Completely altering the gear ratio was inevitable! Further enhancing the suspension was another option. The idea was to enlarge the range of motion, whilst smoothing the resistance of the torsion bars to achieve the impression of weightiness, so my partner Bernd Corleis invented a completely new system (to replace the kit's suspension) based on a spring-loaded torsion bar.

GENERAL TEXTURING

I have to admit that my texturing isn't exactly realistic but I still think is a big improvement, but in my opinion this has to be slightly overdone or otherwise won't be recognized on a scale model! With a round headed burr in the minitool, I bounced it at slow speed off the surfaces on which I wanted to achieve a rolled steel effect. ►



The main guns recoil mechanism has been up-graded to allow for a quicker recoil action, whilst retaining the original slow run-out speed



Up-graded motors have been used to cope with the extra weight and create a more lifelike scale speed.



Bags and match boxes full of small lead balls were placed in any available space to help add extra weight to the model.



The on/off switch has been moved to the engine hatch, this saves having to remove the turret every time the model needs to be turned on or off.

▶ The next step was to coat these surfaces with liquid cement then stipple a chopped down stubby paintbrush into the softened plastic. I sanded it over until I got the desired result. The last step was a final coat of liquid cement to smooth down the reworked surface. The torch cut effect was simulated by drawing a drill, set at medium speed along the sides and edges of the armour plates. The weld seams on the kit have been reworked by using a soldering iron fitted with a very small tip (Historex Agents Pyrograph is the perfect tool for this job. Ed).

DRIVE SPROCKETS AND IDLER WHEELS

First of all the cast texture of kit parts E15 and A3 had to be reworked using a motor tool. I slightly overdid this! The prepared units had been sprayed with Tamiya aerosol primer, on some areas I coated the parts with cyano glue and immediately after I sprinkled on some fine

powder, then blew off any residue. I repeated this process several times until I achieved the desired look of cast texture and / or dirt. After which, I sprayed these units with primer again. Finally they were given a coat of Tamiya TS-3 Dark Yellow just as a basic paint job, shading and weathering would be completed later.

DAMAGING THE ROAD WHEELS

The road wheels of a real Tiger are relatively thin-walled, which means they are very vulnerable to damage. Nuts and bolts are easily forced out of their locations. Projectiles and shell fragments cause numerous holes, and all this had to be simulated on my road wheels. The kit parts A4 - A9 had to be heated up over a candle. I've been really careful and kept moving the parts all the time. By using a selection of different tools, a spoon (!) is my favourite one here, some of the road wheels have been bent and misshapen. You

need to have a look at wartime photographs of real Tigers to do your job correctly. By using a mini tool, bullet holes had been drilled. On some of the road wheels you can even break small pieces apart.

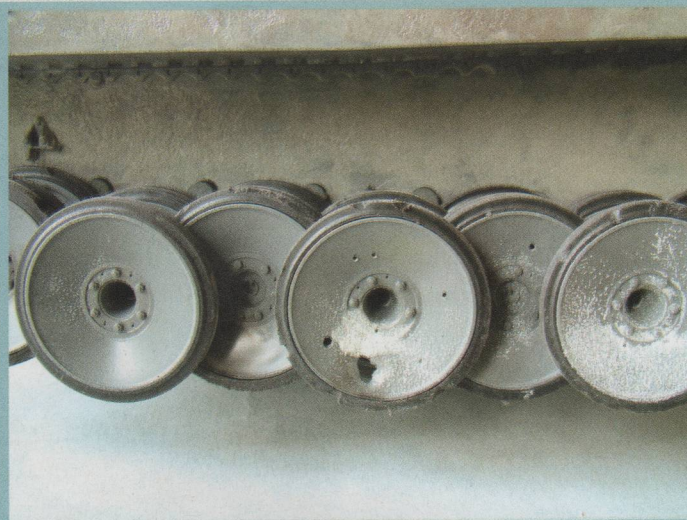
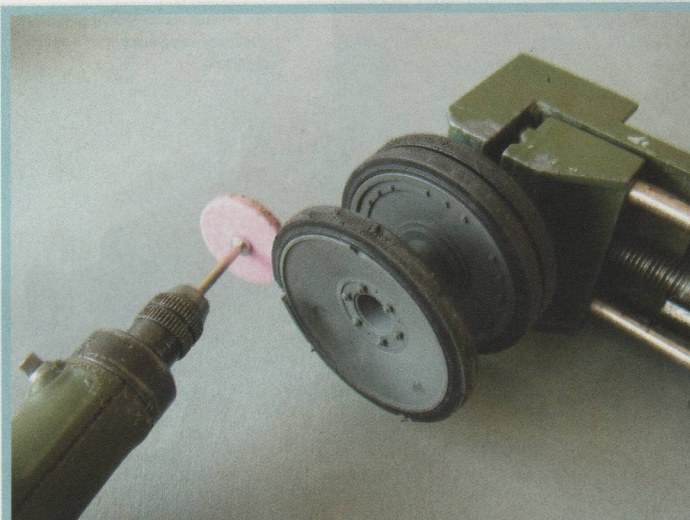
RIGHT ON TRACK

Their inner faces had to be sanded with some fairly rough sandpaper (120 grade) so that the ejector pin marks disappeared. For some time now all metal tracks have been on sale from a variety of sources. With a weight of 730g each, they provide an impressive weighty feel to the tank. The running gear had been finished now and I was ready to start adding all masses of detail included in Aber's comprehensive detail set.

ON TO THE HULL

The assembly of the hull components for the suspension and drive unit is straightforward, except for three alterations; the torsion bars of the suspension system

had been changed to Wechoe's suspension upgrade, the so-called "Corleis" system. It replaces the original Tamiya torsion bars, because its springs are individually adjustable, additional weight could be added, which I did via a fair amount of small lead balls from the R/C plane section, carried in plastic bags and matchboxes, added to the hull and turret. The gearboxes had been upgraded twice! First of all, Wechoe's (I have to admit, expensive) upgrade which uses the existing gearboxes from the Tamiya kit as the base component had been installed. The second upgrade consists of Schumo's reduction gear set which further reduces the gear ratio to around 1:300 compared to approx. 1:50 of the original kit. To crown these efforts, I changed the motors to bigger ones with more torque and speed. The Tiger now moves with a maximum scale speed comparable to the cross-country speed of the real Tiger.



TECH TIP - CREATING WORN RUBBER TYRES

The rubber tyres have to be divided into two groups, light and heavily damaged. Varying amounts of rubber were removed from the tyres with a new scalpel blade to achieve this.

The next step should be done with one road wheel completely assembled. I mounted the axle between the jaws of a vice and span the road wheel with the tyres on, using a motor tool's sanding wheel, up to a point when no more blank rubber was left on the surface of the tyres where they would have contact with the tracks. It took me 4 hours to repeat the whole process 48 times. After this treatment, the tyres were airbrushed in a dark grey colour, which offers a better scale colour than the pure black of the rubber.

All of these improvements lead to a completely different handling beast, the Tiger now moves almost like the real thing, slow and cumbersome over every kind of surface! Climbing small obstacles at slow speed without the need to constantly increase the throttle, crossing rough terrain with only the suspension being influenced instead of the entire vehicle really makes the model act more realistically!

I re-textured all of the hull's surfaces as mentioned earlier. I had a lot to do to the hull front, the kit front mudguards needed to be removed before I could install the etched items from the Aber set. The armoured glass vision blocks of the driver's and radio

operator's periscopes were made of clear acrylic sheet. The Russian anti-tank rifle hits on the hull front were made by using a small dental burr at high speed to melt into the plastic. The elephant insignia of the 502 schwere. Panzer Abt. (502nd heavy tank battalion) had been scanned out of one of my references, redesigned on the PC and then printed out on clear decal sheet.

THE REAR END

Moving to the rear of the hull, the locating holes for the unused Feifel air filter system have been filled and sanded smooth before any other fitting were added.

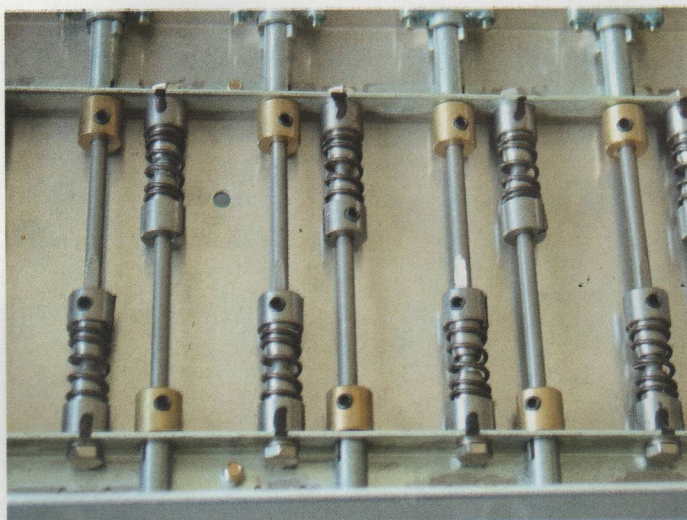
THE UPPER HULL

You will find the largest concentration of etched brass in this area. Above all, I want to mention the workable tool clamps. I didn't initially plan to make them fully workable but it's much easier to paint the tools before you fix them into the clamps. Because the "Feifel" system is shown disconnected and removed, I had to cut off the two plugs at the rear of part B7 and drill a hole instead. Then the "Feifel" securing rods needed to be thread-cut. Therefore I needed a thread cutter (M1). The roof had been textured using liquid cement and a stubby brush because on the real Tiger, thinner steel is used to produce the hull deck plate and therefore

doesn't show such a prominent rolled steel effect.

TURRET

Work on the turret started by texturing of all surfaces following my usual pattern. The commander's cupola was a kit in its own right, I added the missing drain holes and the Aber stuff. The gun mantlet has been reworked making heavy use of a dental burr to obtain the rough cast finish that can be seen on the real mantlet. I decided to use the recoil upgrade that provides such an improvement over the standard kit item. A sudden realistic recoil movement is achieved whilst the run-out of the gun barrel to the starting position remains slow and authentic. The shredded left side of ►

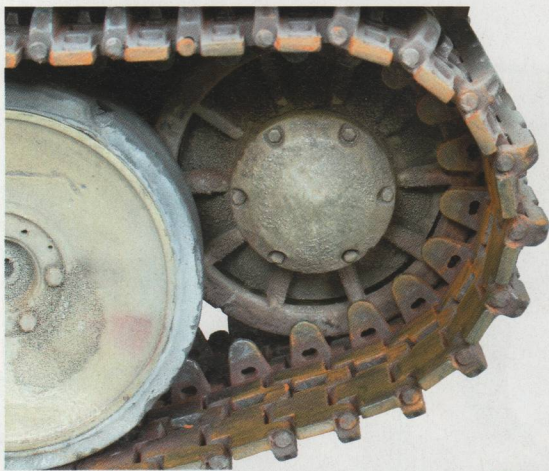


The author's business partner Bernd Corleis invented a completely new suspension system for the Tiger based on spring-loaded torsion bars.

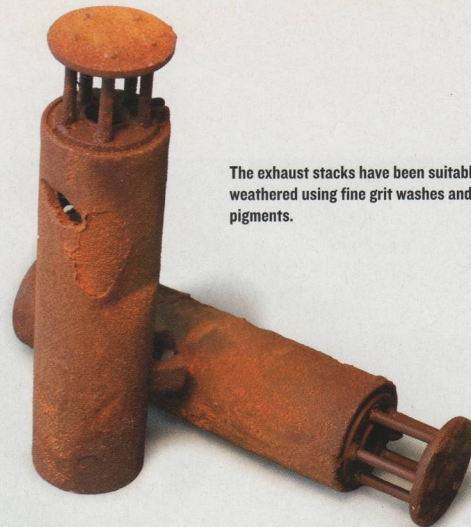
TECH TIP - PAINTING TRACKS

The track painting and weathering started by spraying Gunze Mr. Metal primer over the whole track, then Gunze Mr. Metal colour (iron) is airbrushed again over the whole tracks, followed by polishing the tracks with a soft cloth and then again Gunze Mr. Metal primer to save the metallic effect. I then scraped off some rusty coloured pastel chalks with a knife and brushed it over the tracks' upper surface. The chalk was then sealed in with some matt varnish. The inner faces of the tracks needed to be masked with Tamiya Tape in the same pattern the road wheels would polish them. Just the guide horns and a small part of the tracks' outer areas and edges will go rusty. Then it's the same procedure as with the tracks' upper surfaces. The small part of every track link where it is in contact with the ground has to be polished until there is no more rust on it. Graphite powder from a scraped pencil was rubbed onto these contact points. To finish off, Gunze H-20 matt varnish was airbrushed over the whole track to seal everything. This treatment should withstand a fair amount of driving activity on different surfaces!





The author swapped the plastic tracks supplied in the Tamiya kit with heavyweight all metal items.



The exhaust stacks have been suitably weathered using fine grit washes and pigments.



One of the best things with painting 1:16 scale models is that they offer so much potential for ultra realistic weathering such as the author has achieved on the cupola.

the turret basket was achieved by cutting it out of a sheet of paper which was treated with cyano glue and Tamiya primer. The shell hit on the left turret side has been melted by using a round-headed grinding bit in the motor tool. The markings were created on the PC and printed out on self-adhesive paper. Then I cut them out using a new scalpel and airbrushed them. Finally the track link holders are cast in brass and are from the Aber detail set.

BASIC PAINTING

I started the painting process by priming everything with Tamiya's aerosol grey primer from. No pre-shading was used. The basic dark

yellow was prepared as follows: One bottle of Tamiya XF60 Dark Yellow and half a bottle of XF49 Khaki were poured into an old marmalade jar, two thirds of a bottle of XF2 Flat White was added, one complete bottle of X22 Clear came next followed by half a bottle of Gunze's Mr. Retarder Mild, then the whole mixture was doubled with Tamiya Thinners and shaken well. This became my basic shade from which I made one airbrush glass adding even more XF2 Flat White for the faded colour, and of course three glasses for the basic dark yellow. The rest in the big jar remains there incase the whole painting process needed

to be repeated.

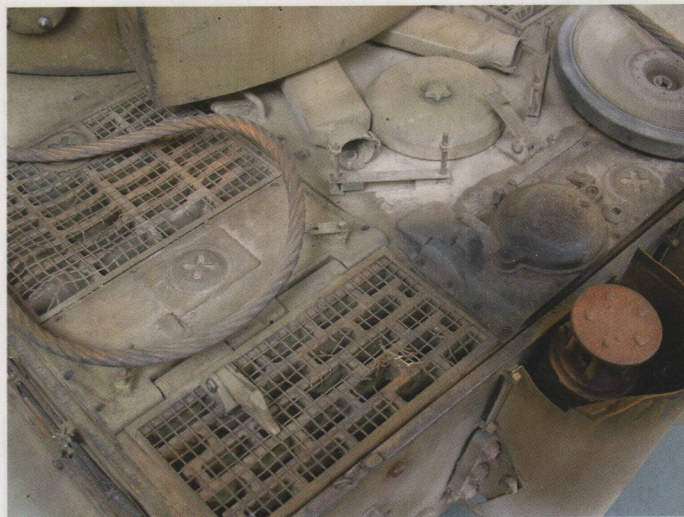
I sprayed on the base mixture using a single-action airbrush in thin layers. With my light shading mix, I airbrushed the tank in a conventional shading pattern, lightening up the surfaces and elevations and toning down the corners and depressions. After 10 minutes I washed all lateral surfaces in an irregular downward pattern with some soapy water on a sponge. You don't see the result at first, but after an hour or so, there is a subtle change in the colour's appearance! It looks slightly odd. Sometimes some parts of the surfaces turn to light because of the soapy treatment,

then it's time to use the fader.

But shading should always be too prominent and far too light at this stage, as all weathering steps tend to tone down the colour and fade the shades. A brown filter made of Vandyke Brown oil colour and white spirit came next. After 24 hours a green filter (you can use any green oil colour) had been applied. Filters in my approach are very thin washes of lighter colours. Their purpose is to tone and enrich the base colour. Airbrushing the markings came next, followed by a thin coat of X22 Clear to seal the painting steps up till now, following this I left the model to dry for about a week.



Because the author removed the Feifel air cleaner boxes, their locating holes had to be filled and their attachment lugs added.



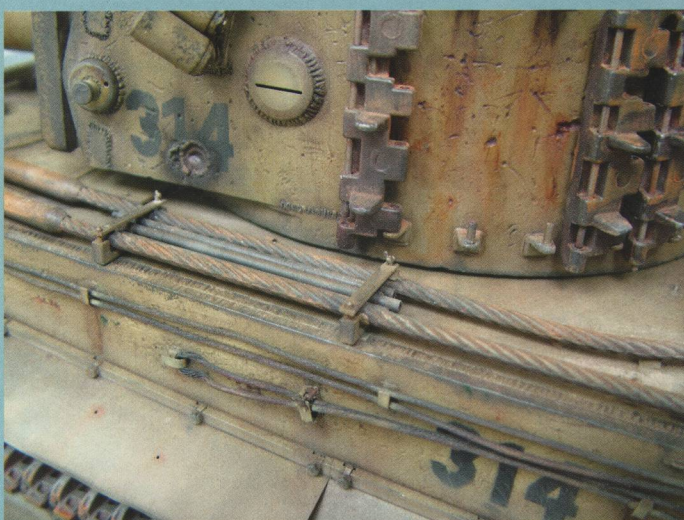
The engine decks looks incredibly realistic in the shot, thanks to skilful painting, the use of the latest weathering pigments and a good eye for detail.



All of the weld seams have been reworked using a soldering iron and on this scale that is a lot. Liquid Poly was then washed along the seams to soften the sharp edges left by the soldering iron.



The track weathering on this model not only had to look realistic but also be practical as this tank moves.



The rust effect on the turret side and the shell impact really do help bring Tiger 314 to life.



The mantlet has been reworked heavily with a dental burr to replicate the heavy cast texture of the original. Note the metallic sheen on the most worn and exposed edges.



The etched brass exhaust shrouds have received some slight shrapnel damage, all of which helps to add some visual interest.



Aber's etched brass fenders are perfect for adding wear and tear and battle damage, by damaging the sheet metal parts helps to contrast between them and the heavy solid armour of the tank.

Modelspec

TAMIYA Tiger I Early Production Full-Option Kit
Kit No. 56010

Accessories

ABER Exclusive Edition 16K01 Tiger I, Ausf. E Early version
WECOHE Suspension kit for Tiger IE (TAM 0001), Gear box upgrade Tiger IE (new Tamiya gearboxes) (TAM 0003), All metal tracks for Tamiya Tiger I (TAM 0005), Armoured Cover for Final Drive System T 1 (TAM 0006), Recoil unit upgrade for Tiger I E (TAM 0020)
SCHUMO KITS Steel antenna for Tamiya Tiger I (T10011)

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics; XF2 Flat White, XF9 Hull Red, XF49 Khaki, XF55 Deck Tan, X57 Buff, XF60 Desert Yellow, X21 Flat Base, X22 Clear, X25 Clear Green.
Gunze Acrylics; H20 Flat Clear, Mr. Metal colour (iron)
Revell Enamels
Rowney Oils; Vandyke Brown, Titanium White, Ivory Black, Yellow Ochre, Olive Green.
Faber Castell pastels.

References used

Schneider: Tigers in combat 1 published by Fedorowicz (J.J.), ISBN: 0921991533
Restain: Tiger I on the eastern Front published by Histoire & Collections ISBN: 2908182815
Culver u. Feist: Tiger and Sturm Tiger in Detail published by Ryton
Spielberger: Panzer-Kampfwagen Tiger and variants published by Schiffer Publishing
How to build Tamiya's steel wheeled Tiger1 by Angus Creighton published by ADH Publishing.

- ✓ Deeply impressive performance and appearance of the tank could be achieved.
- ✗ Most of these aftermarket solutions are expensive and require some basic skills in precision mechanics (especially the Wecohe stuff).

Available from

Basic kit - all good model shops
Aber - aber.net.pl
UK importer - www.historex-agents.co.uk
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Schumo Kits - www.schumo-kits.com

Rating N/A

A note from the Editor

After issue 8 had gone to print we became aware that this model was the feature of an article in another modelling publication, please note this is not our normal policy to repeat articles from other publications. Unfortunately the author had submitted the article some time ago and was under the impression it wasn't going to end up being published.

WEATHERING

The first process was to add a heavy wash, consisting of a darkened mix of the base colour, mixed from oil colours and thinned with white spirit was applied over the tank's surfaces. Wherever too much paint has been applied, it was wiped off with a piece of cloth soaked with white spirits. Afterwards I faded every surface with my prepared fading mixture, these steps require some experience, as you have to "feel" where to fade. This was followed by a thin wash of brown and grey oil colours, highlights were picked out with Humbrol enamels and graphite powder. Everything was sealed with Gunze H20 flat varnish in cloudy patterns so that the surfaces end up with varying degrees of lustre. Paint scratches

have been applied with Humbrol enamels, I dusted the model with XF55 Deck Tan heavily thinned and enriched with a small amount of X21 Flat Base to further enhance the dusty effect and used pastel chalks to finally rust, dust and dirty the model.

CONCLUSION

This has been my first article for MMI and my hope is that I've been able to catch your interest and give you some ideas or at least some new thoughts. But if you try to model a big Tiger the way I did, please bare in mind that I spent about 530 hours over a period of 7 months to build this tank, during which nothing seemed too expensive or too weird to be integrated in the project. ■

"The last step was a coat of liquid cement to smooth down the reworked surface"

This overhead shot shows off to great effect all the subtle weathering carried out by the author.



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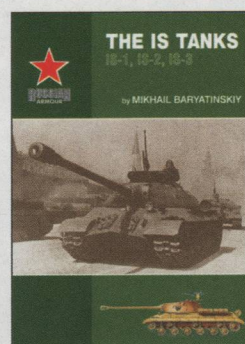
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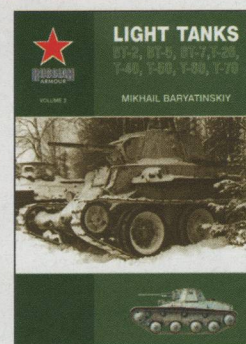
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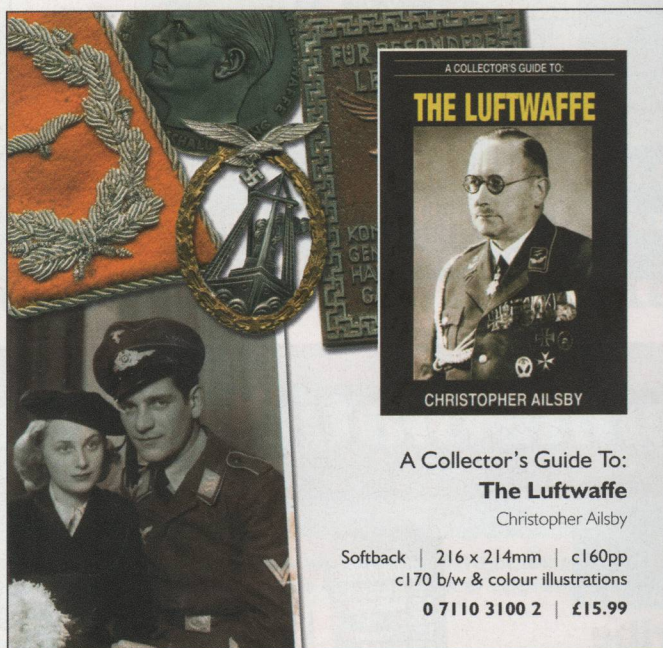
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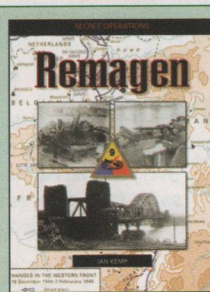
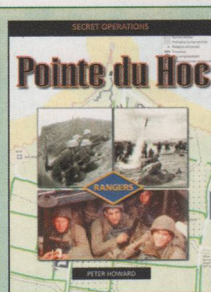
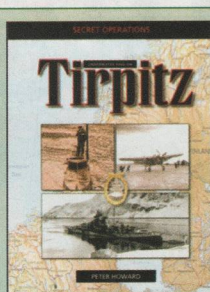
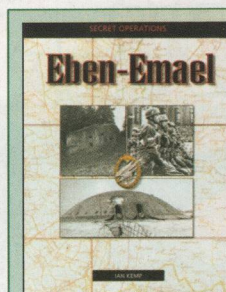


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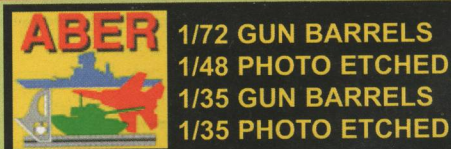
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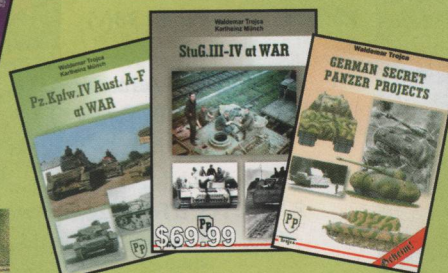
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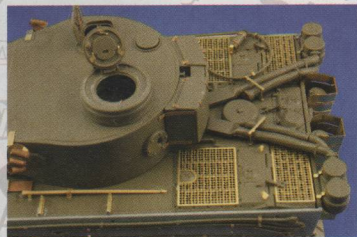
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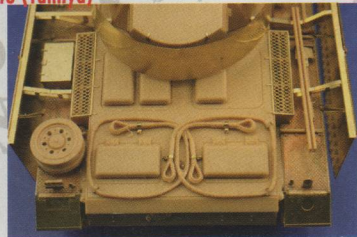
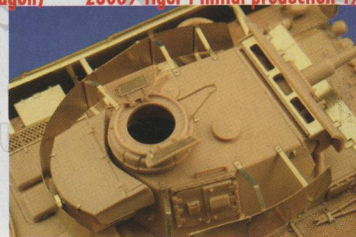
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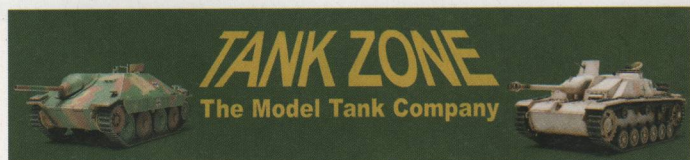


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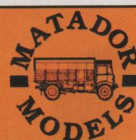
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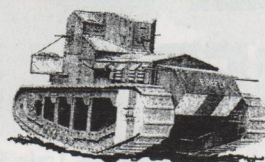
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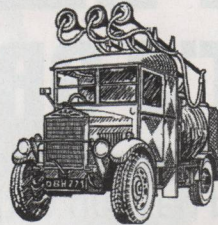
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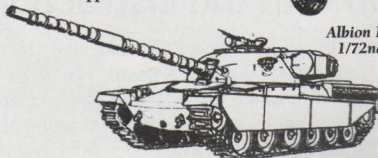
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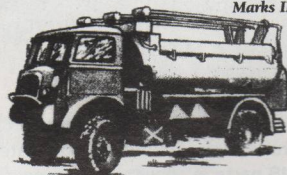
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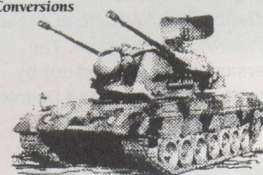
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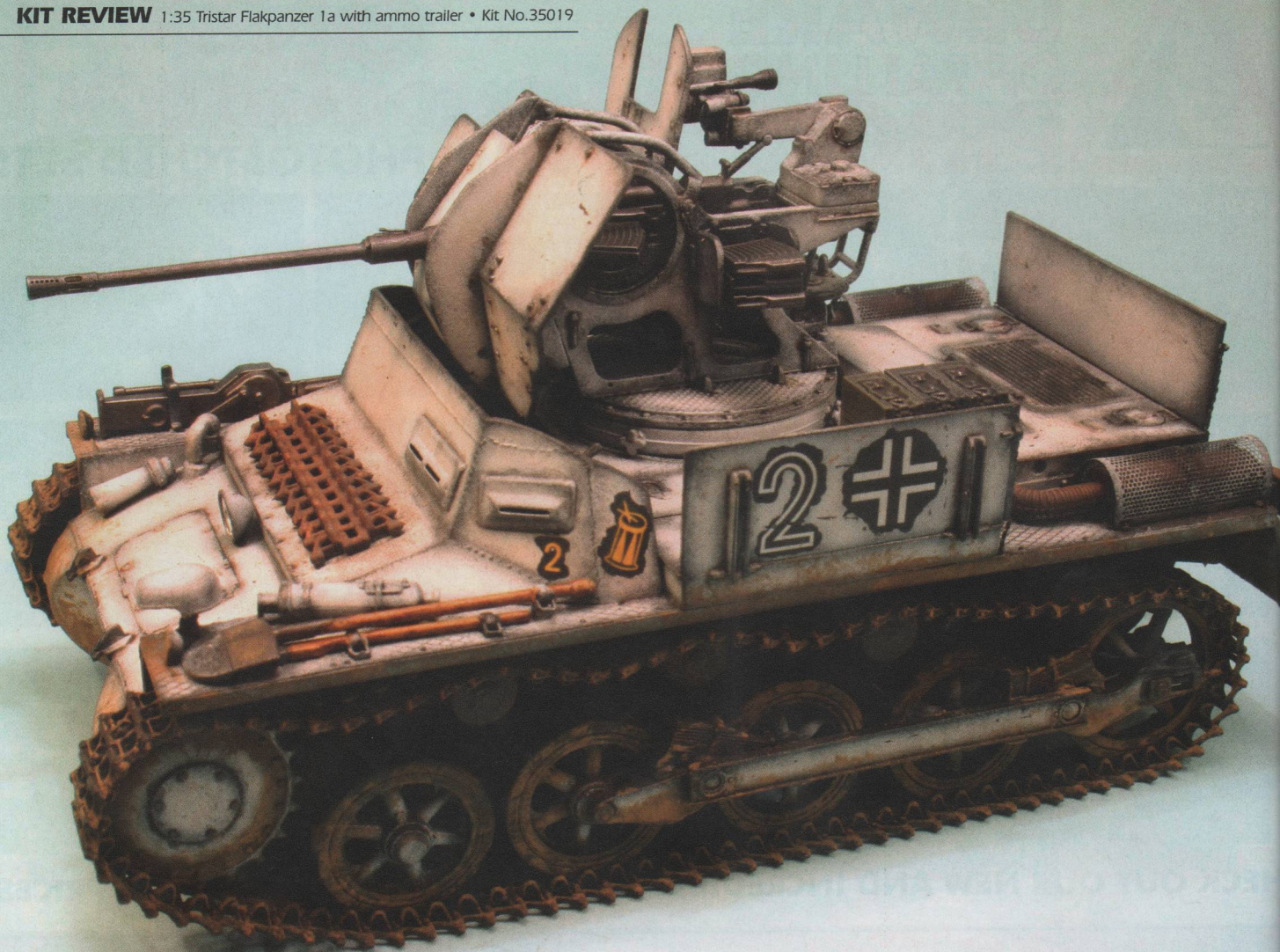


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'ALLO 'ALLO! IT'S GRUBER'S LITTLE FLAK TANK!

Andy King builds Tristar's tiny Flak Panzer I
and has fun with the instructions, read on...

The Flakpanzer 1a was developed during 1941 and based on the obsolete Panzer 1a chassis as it was apparent that a tank hull would afford a bit more protection than the Demag AA halftrack that was in service at the time. The conversions were carried out by two companies, Alkett and Daimler-Benz, although other sources claim that Stoewer did work too. Only 24 vehicles were produced in total but it became the first in a series of Flakpanzers developed throughout WWII. All the vehicles served in Flak-Battalion 614. This unit formed in the Stettin region

of Germany and started moving to the Eastern front by rail in August 1941. One of its first operations was the protection of bridges over the Dnepr river and it also served in the battle of Kharkov. However the unit was eventually destroyed in 1943 at Stalingrad.

THE MODEL

For such a small vehicle the box is stuffed with plastic, approximately 515 parts in all with some nice interior details such as a complete transmission housing. However there are a few parts that are not relevant to the model, like a complete turret for example which

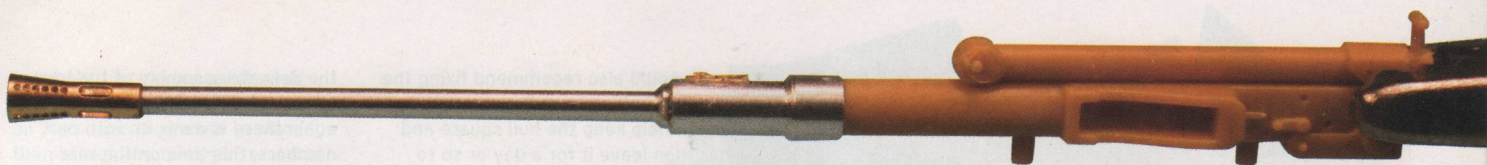
will be handy for the spares box. All parts are virtually flash free with only a small amount at the back of the axle holes on the road wheels plus there are the usual mould seams around parts, but these are easily removed with a sharp knife blade. Ejector pin marks are present on some parts but are in places that are hidden. The etch set features nice mesh exhaust guards and various other small details, however a spent cartridge basket would have been nice as these were often fitted to the Flak 38 gun. A small waterslide decal sheet printed by Cartograf features various numbers in two

sizes, two crosses and the drum emblem used by the 614 Flak-Battalion. This emblem is in three different colours for each of the companies within the unit.

The track links are moulded individually in styrene and are very delicate indeed. These will require careful cutting from the sprue and could prove tricky to clean-up and assemble for the less experienced.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction starts with the Flak38 gun and is fairly straightforward although you have to choose early on what angle you want to portray the gun barrel. The



barrel itself is nice but the flash suppressor will need drilling out at the end to refine it further. If you have really tiny drill bits you may want to add the rows of small holes in the suppressor too. I opted to try one of Aber's excellent turned aluminium barrel.

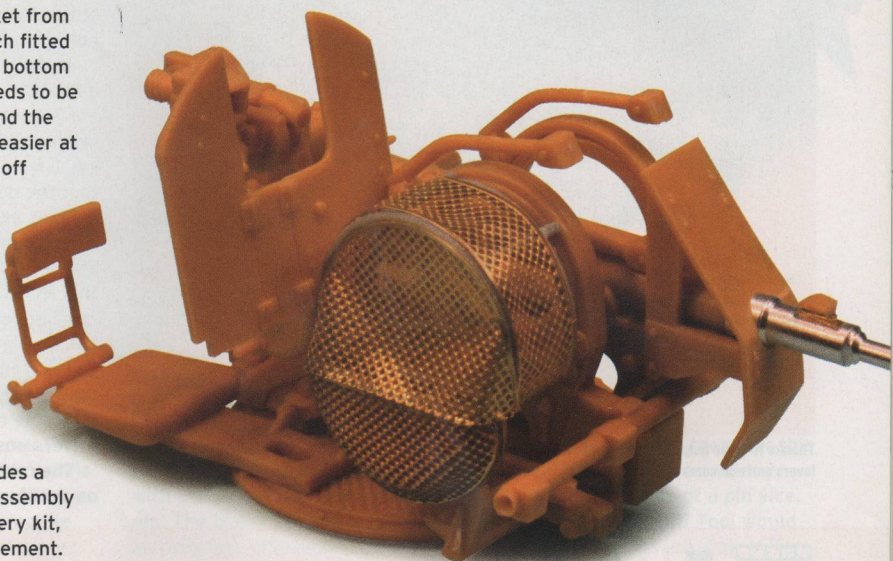
To fit the new barrel I consulted Terry Ashley's ever useful Perth Military Modelling website. On this site is a comparison of Flak 38 kits by different manufacturers and according to the web-site all the different kits of the Flak 38 vary in barrel length, the Tristar offering needs the barrel removing approximately 1mm in front of the collar. Accurate cutting is a must here otherwise the new barrel will sit at a funny angle so it's best to use a jig. A 1mm diameter hole will need to be drilled into the end of what's left of the kit barrel, then glue the new barrel onto the kit item with either cyano adhesive or Epoxy Resin

The rest of the build is easy enough, just remember to remove the small tab between the gun mounting and shield support (parts A1 and A2). The gun shields themselves are nicely moulded and quite thin; the only thing to

do in this area is to drill out the ends of the lower shields support. For a bit more detail I added some etch chain from the spares box to the gun mounts. I also 'borrowed' the spent cartridge basket from Dragon's Flak38 kit which fitted rather well although the bottom of the etched basket needs to be bent to get it to fit around the foot pedal. To make life easier at the painting stage, I left off the main gun shields, as even with an airbrush this area will be quite difficult to get into especially with the basket on the side.

The next stage deals with the lower hull and interior. As the fighting compartment is open this area is quite nicely detailed and includes a complete transmission assembly and floor, but as with every kit, there is room for improvement. When attaching the hull sides, be aware that Tristar have got parts E2 and E3 mixed up. Where E2 fits glue E3 and vice versa. Also, gluing the hull sides is tricky as there are no locating pegs, so a lot of tape is required to keep it all together. ▶

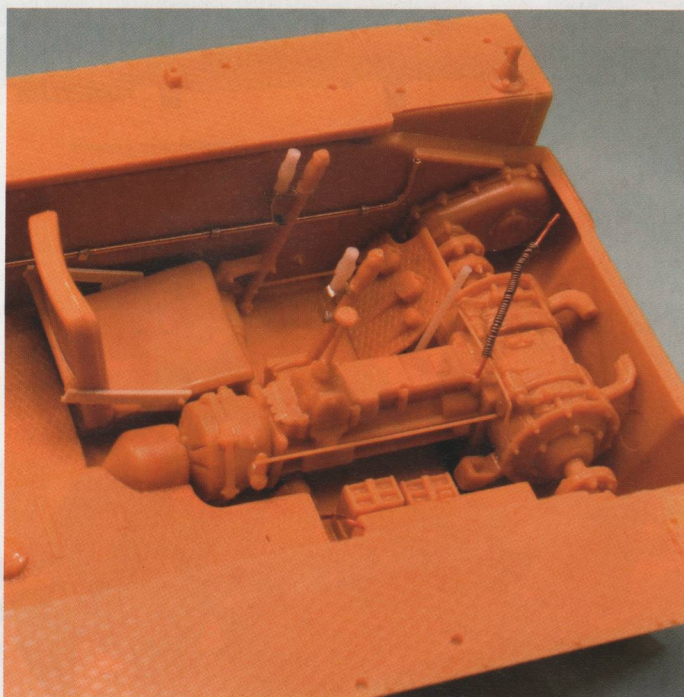
The Aber turned aluminium and brass barrel for the Flak38 offers a massive improvement over the injection plastic part in the kit.



The author borrowed the etched parts from a Dragon Flak 38 to make up the spent case basket missing from the Tristar kit.

Tristar have done a wonderful job of replicating the complicated detail of the 20mm Flak38 and mount. Graphite powder has been used to give a realistic metallic sheen to the magazines and gun.





Thanks to some helpful advice from John Boyton the author was able to correct the driver's steering levers and add some missing pipe work from guitar string and thin strips of aluminium sheet.

◀ I would also recommend fixing the rear hull plate at the same time to help keep the hull square and then leave it for a day or so to set fully. The same applies to the mudguards, again there are no locating pegs so tape is required to hold them to the hull while the glue sets.

Once the hull is dry you can start putting some detail inside the hull although you don't have to go over the top as not much of the interior is visible, just enough to make it interesting. Shortly after my request on M-L, I received an email from John Boyton indicating that the drivers levers had two handles as opposed to the later single handles as depicted by Tristar so I added these using thin aluminium sheet and plastic rod. I added a couple of cables and the linkages to the steering levers from the transmission. I also used a guitar string to represent the cable that runs alongside the drivers position.

The rear of the hull is detailed as per the instructions but due to

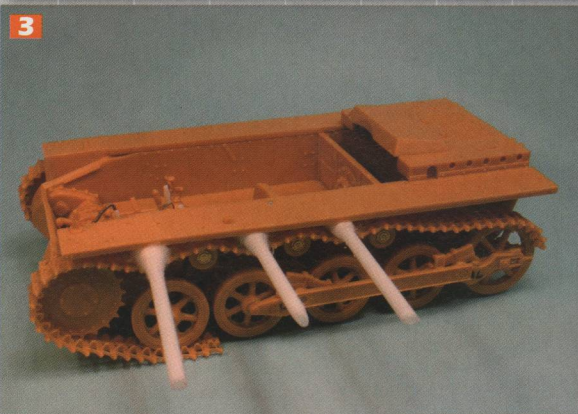
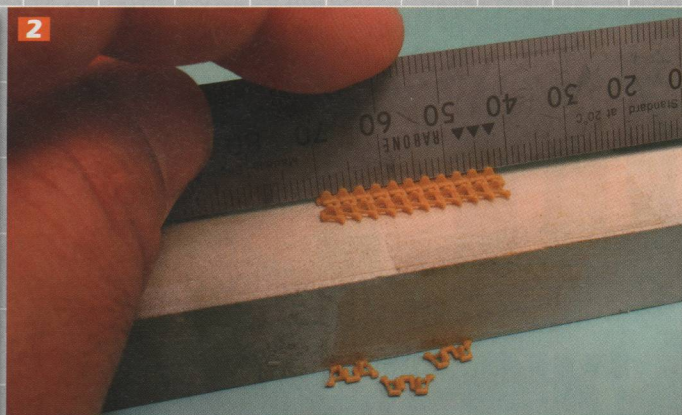
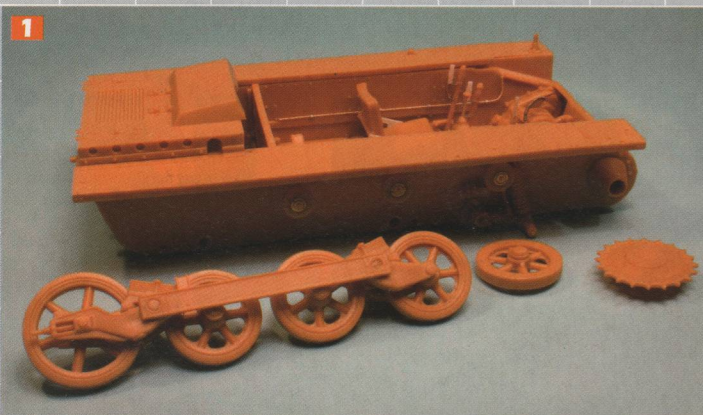
the delicate assembly of the tow hitch I left this off until last. Once again there is a mix up with part numbers, this time on the rear mudguards. The instructions say to fix E11 to both mudguards but on the sprue there is E10 and E11, so what you have to do here is glue E10 to E9 and E11 to E8. Also, to help the fit of the guards to the upper hull remove the rather chunky locating tabs as they just get in the way.

Now it's onto the running gear and this area goes together without any problem, thankfully no mix up with part numbers here although just be aware that on the wheels there is a raised part on the spokes and these should face out. Don't forget the kit tracks are handed left and right. Because of this, it would be a good idea to do one side at a time.

RUNNING GEAR

Now this is the part where I deviated from the script. Due to the small size of the running gear and fiddly nature of the track links,

Tech Guide - MAKING TRACKS



A length of track was first glued together (enough to go from the rear idler, over the return rollers, around the drive sprocket and under the first two road wheels) and left it to set for about 30 minutes before attaching

it and shaping the track sag. Another length was then made up to complete the circuit. The track was then glued to the rear idler, road wheels and drive sprocket but NOT the return rollers as I wanted to remove the

whole running gear assembly from the model to help painting later on, the whole process could then repeated for the other side. ■

I thought I would try a different approach and not as normal, fix all the suspension units in place then attach the tracks after. What I decided to do was to only fit the front axles to the hull, whilst only dry fitting the other units. Doing it this way meant the whole of the running gear could be removed after the tracks had been shaped in place to facilitate painting.

Moving onto the upper hull and trailer assembly. The first thing to do before I glued the armour plating, transmission cover and the base for the gun in place was to paint the inside of the hull as it would be very difficult to reach later. I undercoated the interior with Tamiya XF-1 Black for the pre-shading then a light coat of XF-63 Panzer Grey was applied for the base colour leaving the transmission black. A little XF-2 White was then added to the grey in the jar and then sprayed in between the floor panels and hull sides.

When dry a wash of Sepia oil paint was brushed around the inside to represent accumulated dirt then a heavier pin wash was brushed into various recesses, bolt heads etc. A light dry-brushing was done with a medium/light grey mixed from Vallejo 70950

Black and 70951 White, paint chips were completed with Vallejo 70822 German Camo Black/Brown then a small amount of graphite was rubbed onto the floor plates to represent wear and tear. The drivers chair was painted in a Red-Brown and weathered down.

When finished with painting the

inside, the rest of the upper hull parts were glued into place along with the pioneer tools, hull details etc. The trailer went together with no problems although I replaced the various grab handles with fuse wire. The kit-supplied etched exhaust guards were formed to the required shape. There are

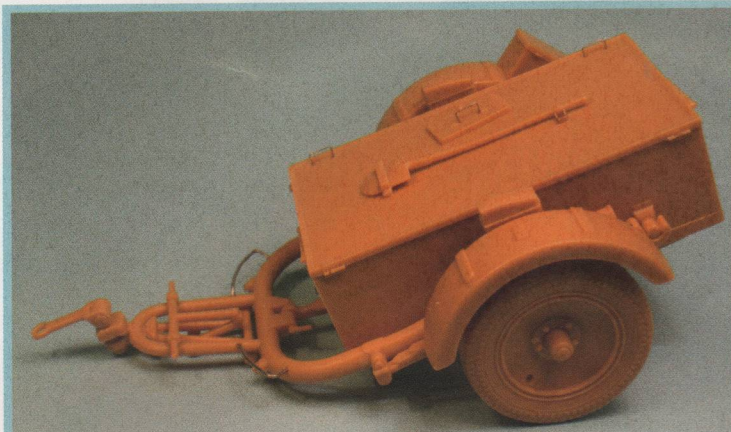
some great tools out there for this type of job but I don't own any so I used the handle of a pin vice. (Mission Models Multi Tool would be perfect for this job, Ed) After a day or so to set, the model was washed down with warm water and liquid detergent and left to completely dry.



The hull has received an undercoat of automotive black aerosol before a light coat of Tamiya XF-63 German Grey has been applied in light coats to allow the black to subtly show through around edges and in shadows.



The kit decals have gone on particularly well and represent the painted on look of the real markings perfectly. Note the detailed spring damped towing bar for the trailer.



The completed ammo trailer is nicely detailed out of the box, the only modifications the author chose to do was to replace and add thinner gauge handles from fine fuse wire.



Some skilful painting has really brought the trailer to life. Mig Productions European Dust has been stippled and dusted over the wheels and lower areas.

PAINTING

I decided to use black auto primer for the undercoat on the hull (after masking the interior first), the trailer, trailer wheels and Flak 38. The running gear was then sprayed in Tamiya XF-1 Black. As the auto primers tend to shrink whilst drying and didn't want this action damaging the delicate track assemblies. XF-63 Panzer Grey was lightly sprayed over the model to allow the Black to show through as a pre-shade. The model was then given a couple of coats of

X-22 Clear and left to dry. Decals were applied as per option 1 on the instructions. I wet the area where the decals are to be placed with Johnson's Kleer floor wax. This helps to eliminate air bubbles that can get under the decal and cause a 'silvering' effect. When set after about 24 hours a coat of Humbrol Matt Cote was sprayed onto the model to seal in the decals and give them the 'painted on' look. Being spirit based I left it to harden for a few days before the next step.

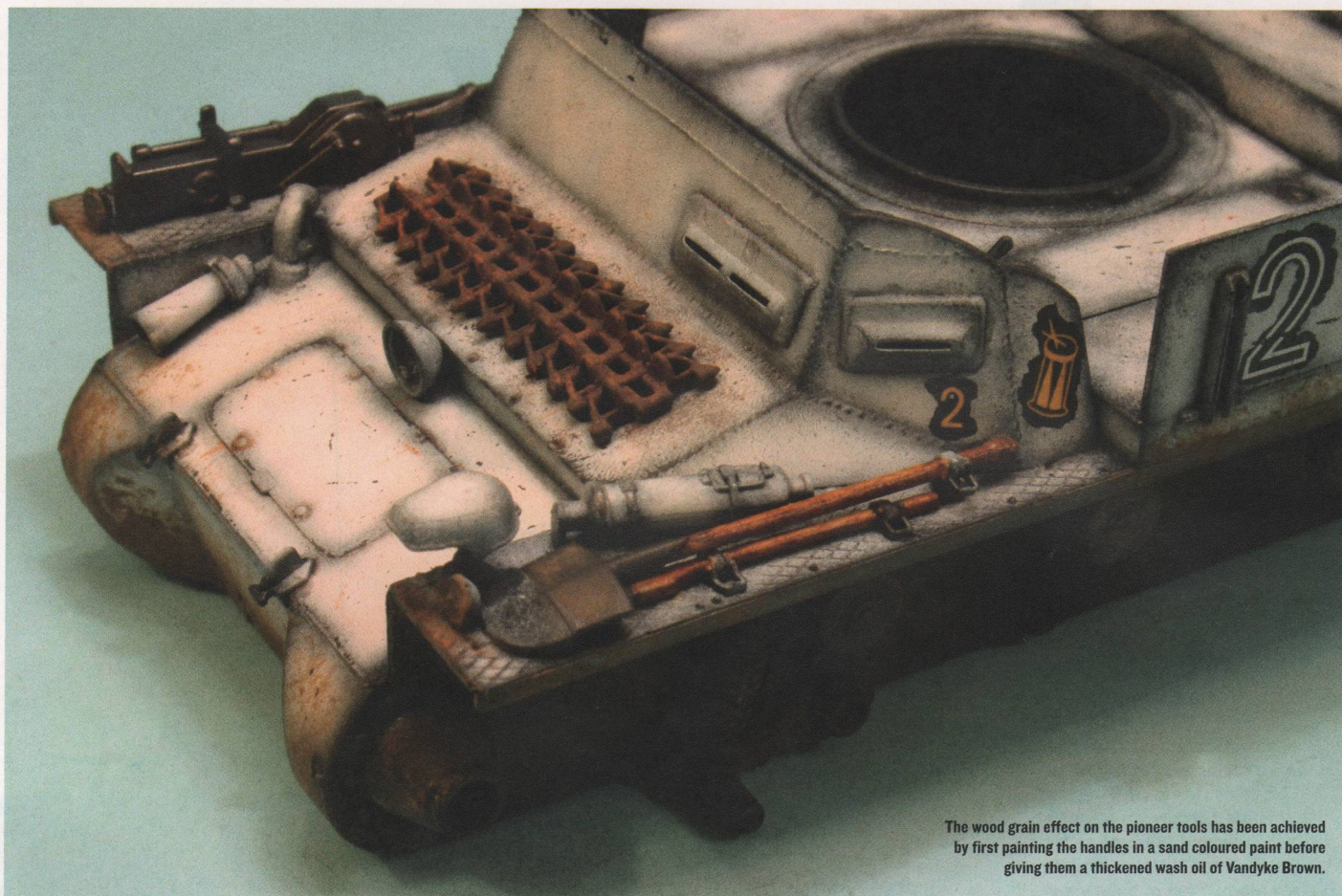
As I wanted to do a winter scheme the markings were roughly masked with Winsor and Newton Masking Fluid. Next Tamiya XF-2 White with a few drops of XF-19 Sky Grey was gently sprayed over the model, concentrating it into the centre of panels and fading it out nearer to the edges to try and get a worn appearance to the whitewash. Pure White was then lightly sprayed, into the centre of areas for a final highlight.

WEATHERING

The tracks, running gear and lower hull were sprayed in a 2:1 mix of XF-52 Earth/XF-1 Black. Then a thin wash of mix of Sepia and Burnt Sienna oil paint was brushed over the entire model. A thicker wash was worked into corners, gaps, around bolt heads etc. Vallejo German Grey was then dry brushed over high points, edges and especially around the engine deck and crew platform to further accentuate the worn whitewash look. Paint chips were applied with

The completed model in all its glory.





The wood grain effect on the pioneer tools has been achieved by first painting the handles in a sand coloured paint before giving them a thickened wash oil of Vandyke Brown.

a fine brush again with Vallejo German Grey. Rust streaks and a few more paint chips were added with thinned Burnt Sienna oil paint. Finally, Mig Productions European Earth pigment was applied around the running gear, lower hull and trailer. To finish off the tracks these were rubbed over with graphite powder.

CONCLUSION

Well, it's really quite a nice little kit, the inclusion of etched parts

is very welcome, especially the exhaust guards, although a spent cartridge basket would have been nice and also would have saved me 'borrowing' one from Dragon's kit of the Flak 38. I thought the tracks would be an issue due to the small size but they went together quite nicely. The only thing that spoils the kit however is the silly mix-up of part numbers in places and the construction of the lower hull, which to me would have been better as a complete moulding. ■

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the editor for asking me to build this kit. Many, many thanks to the people on www.missing-lynx.com who answered my call for help, especially John Boyton for taking the time to email me with pictures and drawings. Much appreciated!

Modelspec

Tristar 1:35 Anti-Aircraft tank Item No:35019

Materials

Injection moulded sand coloured styrene.
Clear styrene. Etch metal sheet. Waterslide decals.

Paints used

Tamiya XF-1 Black; XF-2 White; XF-19 Sky Grey; XF-52 Earth; XF-63 German Grey; X-22 Clear.
Vallejo 70822 German Cam Black/Brown; 70950 Black; 70951 White; 70995 German Grey; 70819 Iraqi Sand.
Humbrol Matt Cote Varnish; 27003 Polished Steel; Matt 33 Black.
Halfords Black Acrylic Automotive Primer.
Oil Paints Burnt Umber; Burnt Sienna; Sepia.

Accessories used

Aber 20mm Flak 38 barrel Item No.35L03.

References used

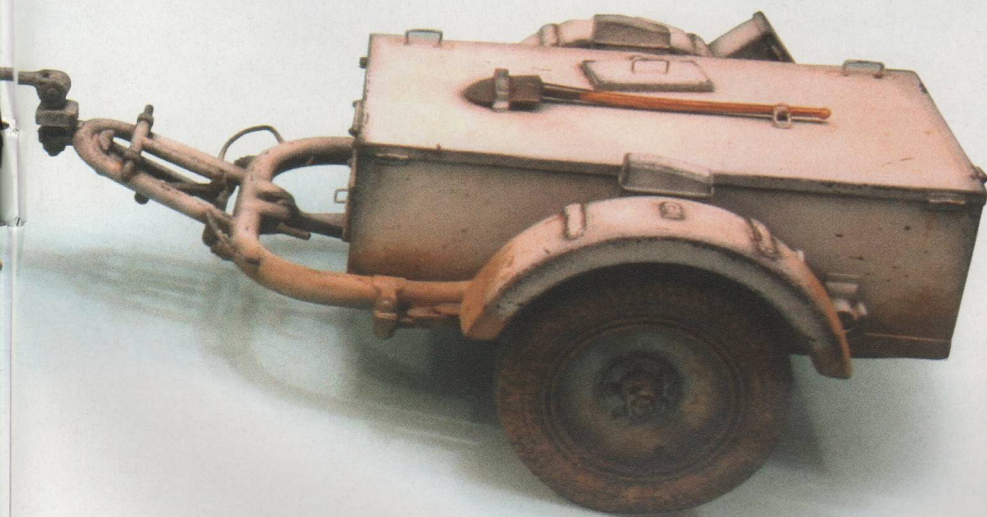
www.perthmilitarymodelling.com
www.ostpanzer.boom.ru-faaalack.html
German 20mm Flak in WW2 by Werner Muller.
ISBN: 0-88740-758-7
Achtung Panzer No.7 Panzer I and II Series.
Mitsuro Bitoh. ISBN: 4-499-22773-9

- ☒ Nicely moulded.
Welcome inclusion of etched parts.
- ☒ Awkward hull assembly: Some mix up of part numbers.

Available from

www.accurate-armor.com or AFV Modeller magazine

Rating ●●●●●●●○



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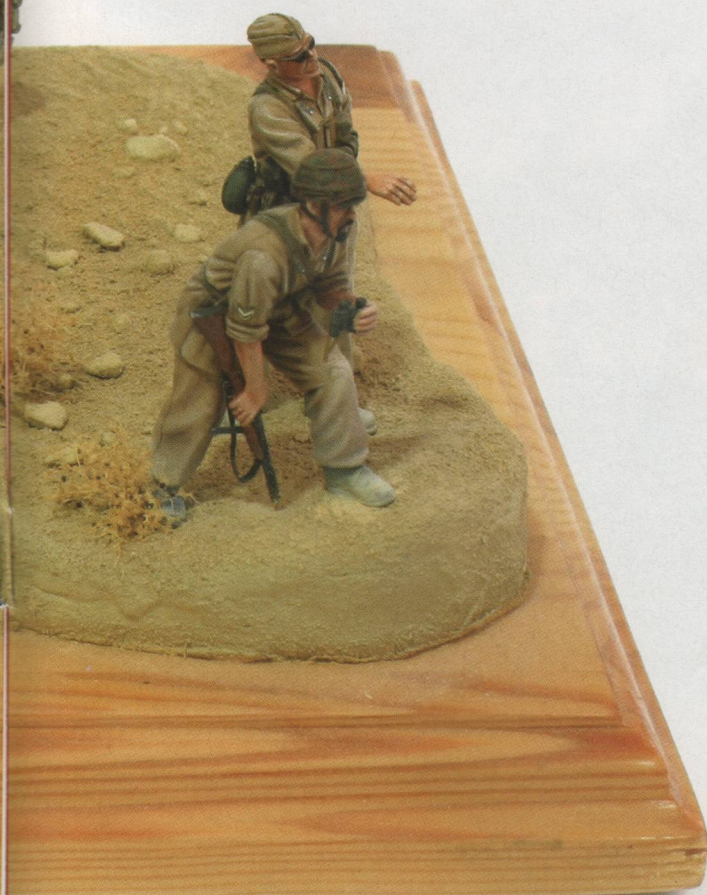
Noel Petroni describes how he built the Italian Semovente almost out of the box...



The Model Victoria paratroop figures were painted using Vallejo acrylics and for these figures the author chose to mix German Camouflage Orange Ochre and Buff together for their uniforms.



The casual and relaxed Semovente crew add a nice contrast to the purposeful looking paratroopers.



When the Italians entered the war officially in June 1940, a close observation of German ideas was started. The success of the StuG III in the French campaign was noted and the suggestion put forward that the Italian armoured divisions should have a similar type of vehicle based on their own successful medium tank, the M13/40. The first actual running prototype was ready within a month of the order on February 10th 1941, proved to be very satisfactory. An order of 60 vehicles was placed and all were delivered in 1941, most going to the Italian divisions in the Western Desert. Only about 200 were built in but all the Semovente enjoyed a long and illustrious career. It served in many theatres of war such as Libya, Egypt, Greece, Sicily and Italy. It was also very popular with the German Army and was kept in use even after the capitulation of Italy. The ball or gimball type of mounting of the main gun had both vertical and horizontal movement, and the hemispherical mantlet was 50 mm thick. The gun elevation and traverse was also controlled by hand wheel. The loader, stationed behind the driver, acted as a wireless operator. The third member of crew was the commander who also acted as gunner. The Semovente proved the most successful of Italian tracked AFV's in WW2. It was simpler to build than the tank on which it was based, and its low silhouette was a tactical advantage.

THE MODEL

When I start a model, my general idea would be to build it straight from the box, mainly to avoid damaging my wallet from any further costs! But upon inspection of the kit I always convince myself I really need to get a photo etched set and maybe a set of aftermarket tracks. For this model I used Royal Models photo etch set No.204. It's not a large fret but still contains all the useful parts for detailing the kit. Of course, if extra cash is available, then Model Victoria's conversion kit in resin and photo etched parts would be a good choice in my opinion.

This kit has a lot of years on it's back and you can either go for an extreme makeover or just tend to the basics, which is what I did. Care is needed when assembling, along with the need to constantly test fit the parts. I did not encounter any frustrating moments during assembly and thought that the kit was actually very well engineered. Of course a bit of filling was needed here and there but on the whole the kit was easy to put together and not many hours were needed to have the Semovente ready for a paint job.

The tracks supplied with the kit are not worth a second glance! As I did not want to spend all my pocket money on this kit, I purchased the Model Victoria resin tracks No.4034. I'd usually go for a set Friulmodel tracks because I like the weight that they add to the finished model. The Victoria tracks work well but need a fair amount of clean up and time to put together.

From the few photos that I had ►

regarding the Semovente in the desert, they all showed the fenders only going back halfway along the track run. The ones supplied with the kit go all the way from front to back, so I shortened mine and shaped to the appropriate size and shape. The main problem that I had with this model was lack of reference photos. The best reference I had was taken from "Militaria Magazine" No19 which included an article with black and white photographs by Yves Buffetaut and three colour plates by Jean Restayn.

I added sand bags from Milliput then pressed a piece of cotton fabric into them to represent their coarse texture. To help supplement the weak frontal armour of the Semovente track links were placed around the superstructure front and along the hull front, all the time constantly referring to my reference photo. From the photo it seemed that a wire held the sand bags and track links together so I used a .3mm gauge wire to secure mine. ►



The Model Victoria crew figures looked suitably relaxed resting against their Semovente. The uniforms were painted using a mix of Vallejo Prussian Blue, Ivory and Red and to this mix white was added for the highlights and black for the shadows and creases.

"I just mix on the spot and do some colour tests 'till I'm satisfied with what I had in mind."

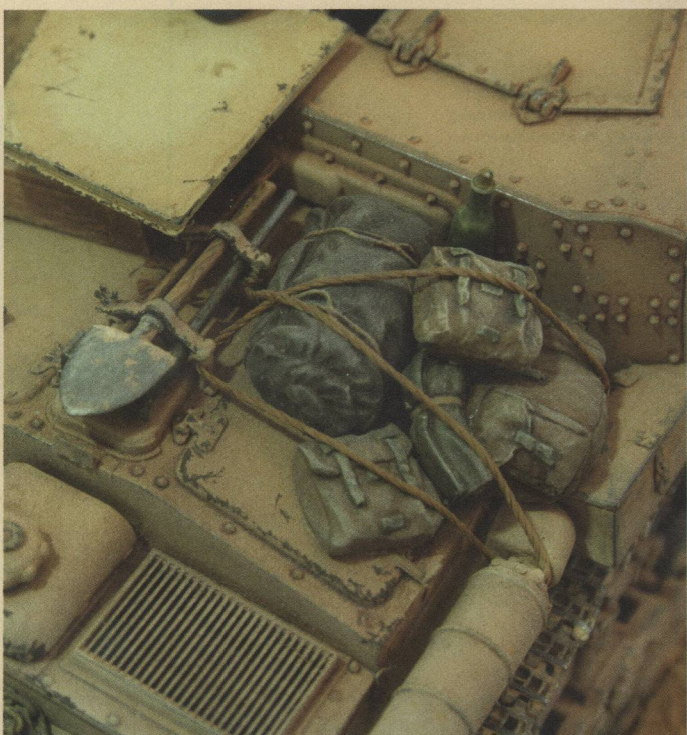




The white cross on the jerrycan signifies this one is used to carry drinking water and must not be used for carrying fuels or oils.



The Model Victoria resin tracks were used to replace the kit tracks, which the author thought definitely needed to be replaced.



Subtle painting and weathering has brought the stowage to life. Note the realistic metallic finish on the spade. It is also good to see the stowage has been securely tied down.



The sandbags added to the superstructure were made from Milliput and textured by dabbing them with a piece of cotton cloth to replicate the coarse hessian material used to make the real things.



The crew of this Semovente aren't taking any chances with the weak frontal armour, therefore have supplemented it with a mix of sandbags and spare track links.



The upturned Italian helmet with liner came from the Canadian manufacturer, Ultracast.

◀ The plastic grab handles were replaced and scratchbuilt from copper wire for a more realistic scale effect.

PAINTING

After a coat of primer to act as a good foundation for the paint work to follow, I had a look at my collection of Vallejo Air acrylic paints and decided on the colour mix.

For the base coat I mixed Sand Yellow No.28 and Sandy Brown No.34. As regards ratio, I have no idea! I just mix on the spot and do some colour tests till I'm satisfied

with what I had in mind. I must say that it took me a while to get used to these paints but as soon as I sorted out the problems, I fell in love with the result and range of colours they offer.

After the base coat, Sandy Brown No.34 was used to go over all the angles and around hatches to create a shadow effect and tackled the highlights with Sand Yellow No.28. With this shade I airbrushed from the centre outward on all the panels and hatches. At this stage the model didn't look very pretty because

of the two contrasting colours, but a controlled overspray of the base colour will put things right. Be careful not to cover too much of the contrasting highlights and lowlights. I would suggest leaving a noticeable contrast showing because this will become less pronounced after the wash process has been completed.

CHIPS IN THE DESERT

Escaping from my family chores, I quietly made it to my workbench. Now I took Vallejo Model Color Olive Drab No.91. I found this colour

particularly suited to represent bare steel devoid of paint. So with a fine pointed brush I went around representing paint chippings to areas prone to continuous knocks and crew traffic. The paint on my palette had to be thinned with water continuously to achieve a very thin film of paint. Even if this had to be painted a couple of times over.

TRACKS

Tracks were airbrushed with Vallejo Model Color Black Grey No.168. As the Model Color is not the airbrush type paint unlike

The author chose to extend the base especially to make room for the two paratroop figures and doing this has helped tell a story and balance the scene.



the Model Air range, I thinned the paint with a few drops of water to aid the flow through the airbrush. Leaving the paint to dry overnight, a mixture of Mig and CMK pigments diluted with water to the consistency of a paste was prepared. The pigment paste was applied heavily to the tracks and when dry was brushed off with a old stiff brush. A note of warning when dusting off dried pigments wear a mask and make sure you are in a well ventilated area.

WEATHERING

A mix of Burnt Sienna with Burnt Umber oil paint heavily diluted with white spirit was applied in sections with a soft brush and dabbed off with tissue paper. With a fine point-etch brush, some spot washes were

applied with Burnt Umber oil paint.

The running gear and lower part of the tank also got the same treatment as the tracks. Finally Tamiya XF55 acrylic paint was lightly airbrushed concentrating more on the lower areas of the model.

FIGURES

The figures are from Model Victoria and I must say that the sculptor Paolo Marcuzzi does a fantastic job on these resin figures! In my opinion, they are the best sculpted figures, having crisp detail and realistic fabric folds that are a pleasure to paint. I absolutely enjoy painting Model Victoria figures and believe they are the finest on the market. At first I wanted to display only the tank crew so as not to

go into extra work by including more figures, but when I had a look at the Italian Paratroopers set, I had to paint these! So I enlarged the base to accommodate the two paratroopers. All the figures were painted with Vallejo Model Color. For the tank crew a mix of Prussian Blue 965, Ivory 918 and Red 947 was made and white was added successively to produce the highlights and black was mixed to the base mix to achieve the shadows. The caps were painted in US Dark Green 893.

The paratroopers received a base mix of Germ. Cam. Orange Ochre 824 and Buff 976.

TERRAIN

I have to admit that getting the colour I desired for the groundwork

proved to be a tough job. Frankly, I'm not too happy with my result! However after airbrushing for about the tenth time I gave up, and decided it was time to close this project and move on to another one.

CONCLUSION

I enjoyed building this kit and will in fact build another one. It's an inexpensive kit that will produce a nicely finished model with just minimum cost for a photo etch set and some resin tracks. However, if you are on a tight budget I would suggest leaving out the photo etch and investing only on the tracks. I still believe that a model can still look decent if built straight from the box. What is important though is the painting and weathering that is the main eye-catcher! ■



MEET THE AUTHOR

I'm Noel Petroni; 45 years old and live on a small Island called Malta. We mainly have two types of weather here, sunny and sunnier! Hardly any modelling is done during the summer months due to the heat.

My first model was the Tamiya 1:35 motorized King Tiger when I was a kid. During my teenage period I stopped and preferred Pink Floyd, ELO and girls. I have been modelling seriously for about 14 years and my main subject is German armour, although recently my interest has been expanding to Allied tanks as well. My modelling hours are at 6:30 in the morning before I go to work and late evening when my two little boys are sleeping. Due to space I stopped building dioramas and now concentrate on vignettes and single vehicles. My goal in life.....is to try and build all the models that I have before I turn 80!! ■

Modelspec

Zvezda Italian Self-Propelled Gun M40 75/18

Kit no:3515

Parts Used

Royal Model photo etch art. 204.

Victoria Model Resin tracks art. 4034

Royal Model and Victoria Model available from SB models in the UK

Paints Used

Vallejo Model and Model Air colour:

Sand Yellow 28

Sandy Brown 34

Germ. Cam. Orange Ochre 824

Olive Drab No.91

Buff 976

US Dark Green 893

Prussian Blue 965

Ivory 918

Red 947

Black Grey 168

References

Militaria Magazine Issue No19

✓ Simple and fast to assemble.

✗ Time to have a re-tooled kit and maybe another version.

Available from

All good model shops.

Rating ●●●●●●●●●●



Book Reviews



30 YEARS OF MILITARY VEHICLES IN LEBANON 1975-2005, PART 1

SAMER KASSIS, ELITE GROUP, ISBN 9953-0-0705-5
WWW.ELITEGRP.COM.LB

The name of Lebanon has, unfortunately, become synonymous with conflict over the last few decades, due to its intimate proximity with Israel and Arab neighbours. This all-too frequent clash of arms has resulted in a wide variety of vehicles being developed, from 'proper' armoured vehicles such as M50 Shermans, T-55s, M113s etc., right down to improvised machinery based on civilian pickup trucks and lorries, all of which makes for a fascinating range of modelling possibilities. This spectacular new book from Beirut based company 'Elite Group' brings us a mouthwatering glimpse into this world with the use of no less than 687 mostly colour photographs of the conflicts from the region since the early 1970s.

The range of machinery on show is bewildering, including Staghounds, Ferrets and Saladdins, M113s, M48s, M50 Super-Shermans and WW2 vintage M3 halftracks, plus ex-Soviet T-54s, BMPs, BTRs, T-34s, Shilkas, BRDMs and much, much more, all presented on neatly layed-out pages with a black background. The aforementioned civilian vehicles are particularly intriguing, with weapons clearly much too big to be carried, let-alone fired, fitted to their cargo decks - again, fantastic modelling inspiration. Of note in particular is a Syrian Army Unimog S.404 with a 23mm Soviet made twin barrel ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft gun on the back, an interesting conversion idea for Perfect Scale Modellbau kit previewed in TMMI issue 133, perhaps with Azimut's gun on the back...

Conversions based on the US M113 APC are manifold, and include up-armour packages and upgraded weapons systems, with many of the vehicles being second and third hand - examples being used by Hezbollah are depicted. The variety of camouflage schemes on the 'home-made' AFVs is amazing, some looking distinctly handpainted using whatever paints come to hand.

A good sized section is given to the Israeli Defence Force, with the ubiquitous M113s in evidence again, plus HUMVEEs, Centurions, Merkavas, Abir M462 and more, all great reference shots. The book actually comes in two parts - the main being the images, supplemented by a slimmer volume containing the captions, in French and English.

There's a heap more material in this book but page space precludes us talking about it here, suffice to say that if you fancy building a model of a post-war, highly modified and completely scratched, dusty, bent, buckled and rusty military vehicle, then this is the book for you!

Marcus Nicholls



OSPREY MODELLING 31 MODELLING FALLSCHIRMJÄGER FIGURES

JAUME ORTIZ AND DANIEL ALFONSEA ROMERO
OSPREY PUBLISHING, ISBN 1-84176-896-0

This is the first book dedicated to building and painting WWII German paratroopers and the book contains plenty of excellent step by step photos covering both construction and painting. Some of these include face painting, creating complex camouflage patterns, weathering clothing as well as creating vignette and diorama settings.

This title follows the Osprey's standard format consisting 80 pages of bright clear photos, informative text and lots of helpful step by step pictures. The book covers the construction and painting of four different figures and setting, all of which have been finished to an enviable standard.

The techniques demonstrated in this book will I'm sure prove invaluable to figure painters and armour modellers alike who wish to improve their painting skills.

The Editor



M1 ABRAMS

YVES DEBAY, HISTOIRE AND COLLECTIONS, ISBN 2-915239-71-1

Although this book is only printed in French, it is still a valuable reference source for anyone building or interested in the M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank. The book consists of some 138 pages packed with large clear colour photos of the tank. From its earliest guise as the XM 1 through to the latest M1A2 and Panther II Mine Detection and Clearing Vehicle.

The book is more a pictorial history of the Abrams than a walk around as such but never the less it is definitely one worth getting and will I'm sure inspire anyone who has recently purchased or is about to start building Dragon's new M1A1AIM.

A great book for fans of modern armour and even better if you read French.

The Editor

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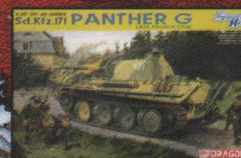
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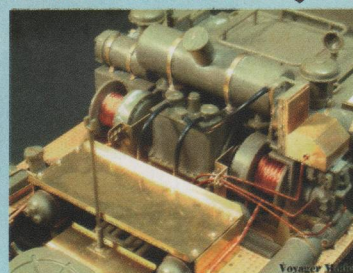
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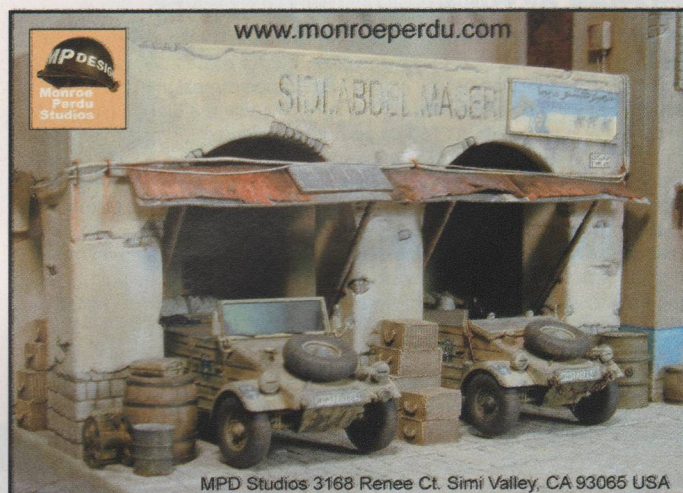
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Book Reviews

MAGACH 6B GAL IDF ARMOUR SERIES NO.1

MICHAEL MASS, DESERT EAGLE PUBLISHING, ISBN 0-9788844-1-3
WWW.FRIENDSHIPMODELS.COM

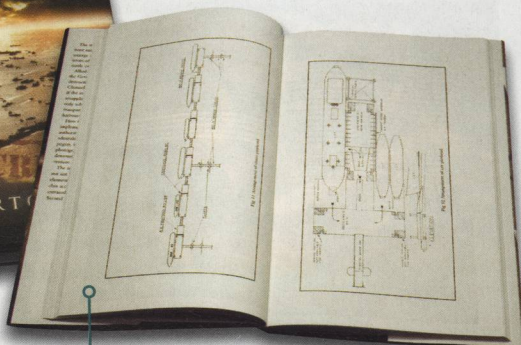
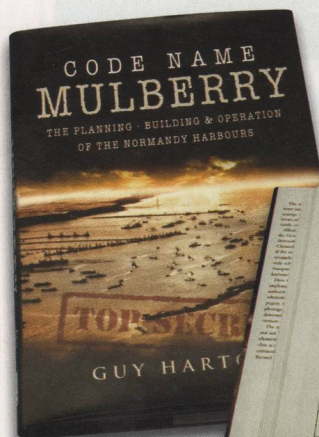
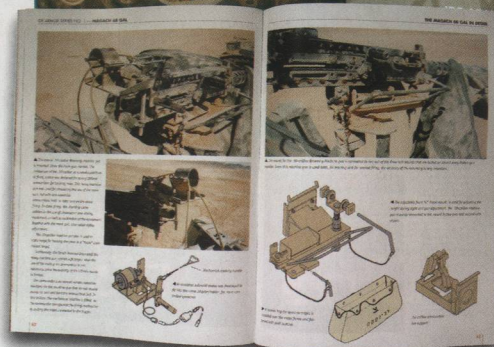
Released just in time for Euro Militaire this book is a co-operation between Desert Eagle Publication and Legend Productions and is produced firmly with the modeller in mind. Legend are famous for their many IDF model kits so producing a series of books on IDF armour seems a logical step. Those of us that like to build IDF vehicles know that getting good reference material is always the most difficult part of any model. I have as many books on just the Tiger 1 as I have on the numerous vehicles from 60 years of the IDF.

This book is the first in a series which hopes to number 30 titles, yes 30! These should plug most, if not all of the gaps in your IDF reference library. The book begins with an explanation of the upgrades done by the IDF to the American M60 thus explaining what all the confusing Magach sub variants are. The main body of the book consists of clear full colour photos some of which are 'in action' with the rest being detailed close up photos. The photos are comprehensively captioned and point out all the fittings of interest giving names and functions to all the tanks numerous lumps, bumps and sticky out bits that have always remained a mystery to me. The inside of the tank is not left out as photos of the engine compartment and power pack and the turret interior are included. Line drawings showing exploded views of the machine guns mounts are a great bonus for those wanting to super detail any kits parts. The last part of the book deals with the tanks markings and a build of one of Legends Magach kits.

My favourite photo shows a tank with its turret turned 90 degrees. Slung underneath the overhanging turret basket lying in a hammock is a crewman reading a book. What diorama potential!

This is the first in a series of what will hopefully be a significant addition to the small amount of IDF references available. The inside back cover shows the next two books for release. No.2 is a volume on the Merkava 3 and No.3 is the second volume on the Magach 6B. Highly recommended.

Graeme Carruthers



CODE NAME MULBERRY: THE PLANNING, BUILDING & OPERATION OF THE NORMANDY HARBOURS

PEN & SWORD MILITARY, ISBN: 1844154343, GUY HARTCUP

Maybe a slightly esoteric title for some modellers but for those interested in wartime logistics, particularly of the North-West Europe campaign, this book is an easy-to-read, yet comprehensive, publication. The title is a bit of a give away to the contents of the book. Its 160 pages outline the inception of the artificial harbours through to the dismantling of the harbours (both enforced and planned). All components of the harbour are described, each with its own code name, from the blockships through to the floating roadways which by the end of October 1944 had conveyed 39,000 vehicles and 220,000 dry-footed troops.

The mainly text-based book is interspersed with wartime photos of the harbours in situ and during the planning and construction stages. Drawings are also provided helping to explain how the harbours were constructed and functioned when actually put in place.

The book was originally published in 1977 but is still relevant 30 years later. The only improvement I could dare suggest would be an addendum showing what is left of Mulberry B at Arromanches.

Keith Goldsworthy



BLUE STEEL T-55 TANKS IN SOUTH LEBANON

MOUSTAFA EL-ASSAD, WWW.BLUE-STEEL.INFO, ISBN N/A

Tamiya's 1:35 T-55 kit set the standard for this family of vehicles when it was released a few years back, and this handsome, modeler-friendly tank is a subject that can built and built again without ever tiring of it. Enter then, Moustafa El-Assad's new book 'Blue Steel', which presents to us seventy two pages of fabulous colour photographs of T-55s in South Lebanon. An excellent range of images are presented within the pages of this softback edition, with some unmissable weathering references throughout. The characteristic blue camouflage of the Lebanese army machines appears frequently, and by the time you have finished looking through the book, you'll be itching to build one! Also useful for diorama builders are the many images of local terrain and architecture, always helpful for improving the look of a scenic backdrop. Overall, an excellent first effort and a highly useful piece of reference material.

Marcus Nicholls





Wellington Mk.Ic

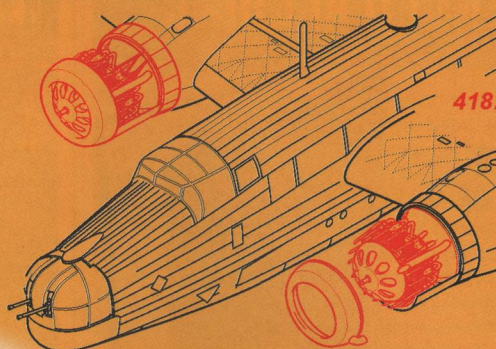
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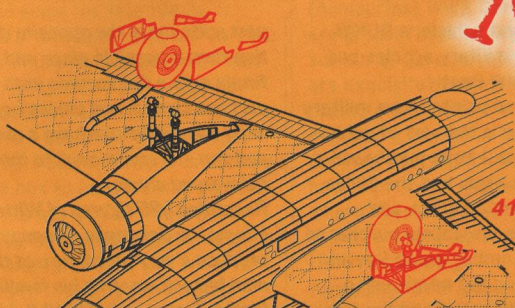
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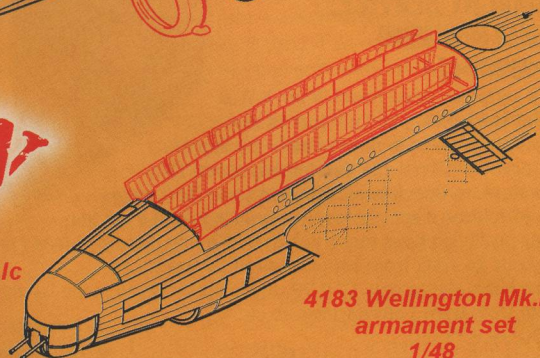
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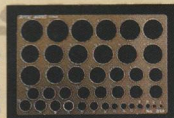


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Letters

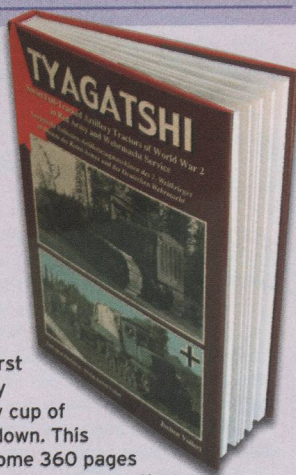
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TYAGATSHI SOVIET FULLY TRACKED ARTILLERY TRACTORS OF WORLD WAR 2 IN RED ARMY AND WEHRMACHT SERVICE.

TANKOGRAĐ PUBLISHING

ISBN 3-936519-02-1

This is a seriously good book! When it first arrived at the office, I initially turned my nose up at it thinking it wasn't really my cup of tea but now I can't put the damn thing down. This heavy weight hardback book contains some 360 pages packed with large clear photos, line drawings and a section of colour profiles. I have lost track of how many diorama ideas I have got the urge to start from being inspired by the photos. A superb book and at only £24.99 offers outstanding value for money. Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk or Tel 01299 823330



BUFFALO INFO

Just picked up MMI Issue 5 here in the States and had a couple of questions on your LVT4.

Is that a smoke discharger in the mount on the front or a 2 inch mortar?

Are the stencils on the pontons from the Archer D-Day shipping stencil set?

Do you have a rough idea of the dimensions for your MG shields you could share?

Lenses on the headlights-MV116 or Grief or Resicast? Size in mm? Taillights -size?

Kipp Anderson

Ed Says: In a reply to Mr Archer's letter back in issue 7, I listed the dimensions of the shields but please remember these were best guess measurements. (Anyway if you missed that issue here they are for you).

The dimensions are as follows; 20mm wide at the front, 22mm wide

at the rear (open end), 12mm high at front, 22 high at the rear and 22mm deep. The flared outside sections were made from 2mm wide plastic card.

The stencilling all came from the Archer sets.

The info I had suggested it was a smoke discharger, (basically a Verey pistol) but the photos I had were not very clear and were really only good enough to make out the basic shape. Both the clear headlight lenses and red taillights came from the Greif range and if I recall correctly the headlights were 3.5mm diameter and the taillights were 2mm.

INSPIRATION

Having just read October's issue I have been inspired to try and build a facsimile of the photograph the Kettenkrad. When you published this you must have known I would see it as I always find myself building models of the more unusual variety. I have made a



M20 command vehicle, a DUKW with various military articles and also a DAK VW Beetle. The Kettenkrad painted as a military police vehicle is the sort of vehicle I love to make. I have purchased a Tamiya kit for this and the Willys jeep, an Italeri 2.5 truck and utilized some previously purchased Tamiya US combat group figures but converting the heads using Resicast WWII bare head figures. I will admit it won't be on a grand scale in terms of base size but will do justice to the photo with the key elements, including the civilians just hidden behind the truck. Once again many thanks for the inspiration, if you had not published the picture in the magazine making a US captured version of the Kettenkrad would have been poetic licence. Obviously we have all seen Saving Private Ryan when the rangers use a Kettenkrad but that's Hollywood, actually seeing a real photo is great

Simon Hayward

MAUS PROBLEMS

First I would like to say what a great magazine.

I read it from cover to cover, and can not wait for the next issue. Now I come to reason why I am e-mailing you. I have small problem, with a Dragon Maus, which I purchased from a wonderful electronic market place. When I tried to fit the hull together I found it had warped, is there any way of curing this, I have glued the rear together, but the front will not meet.

As I want to put it in a diorama in 1946, do you know of any manufacturer, who makes a 1:35 figure of Michael Wittmann?

Spencer Worley

Ed Says: With warped injection plastic parts, such as a large hull piece it is possible to immerse the part in very hot water, once the part has softened it can be carefully twisted back to the correct shape. To get the best results I find it best to twist the

part quite far in the opposite direction then if possible place and press firmly onto a flat surface until the part has cooled, and please bear in mind the plastic can have a memory and can still revert back to the original warped shape.

Regarding 1:35 figures of Wittmann, I know the Japanese company Yoshi produce a very nice figure of the man himself wearing his familiar leather jacket and M1943 field cap. Unfortunately I don't know of a UK importer, but Historex Agents would be a good place to start as they stock many brands and the their staff are very helpful and knowledgeable.

LATEST, NOT NEW!

MMI was readable and enjoyable as always and worth the £3.50. One area where I feel I've got to stick my oar in and post a correction (or at the very least a clarification) concerns the figure reviews on pages 50-51.

The Italeri German AfrikaKorps figures in 1:72 are exactly what it says on the box. The "Super Special Material" does offer extra rigidity to previously delicate extremities such as weapons, and the figures are both easier to paint and retain paint far more effectively. SSM itself appears to be some sort of harder plastic bonded onto a polythene core - the resulting "hybrid" figures are an absolute pig to remove from their sprues! While this is aesthetically tons more pleasant than the alternative used by H&T or Pegasus on their 1:76 figures (the vinyl plastic they use is so floppy and soft the figures have an unpleasant "jellyfish" feel about them) it does beg the question - why on earth don't figure manufacturers use the same hard styrene that most plastic kits are made of? Surely this is the single simplest answer to the age-old problem of getting 1:76 plastic figures to accept paint? This has been done before - in the 1970s, ESCI marketed a limited range of

WRITE TO:

MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
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1:72 styrene figures which were like a simplified and scaled-down version of the Airfix 'Multipose' concept. (I still have many of those - their Russians were a delight!) And speaking of ESCI, I'm afraid your figure review missed the most obvious point about this figure set. Yes, they are good figures and there's nothing wrong with them, and they hold their own for price and quality with anything else available.

They just aren't 'new' or 'original' - this is a re-release of the old ESCI Afrika Korps set that has been around since the late 1980s. This is a 'difficulty' with the current Italeri figure range: genuinely new and original figures are rubbing shoulders with ESCI re-treads which are currently up to twenty-five years old, and there is nothing on the box to indicate whether the contents are new or 'recycled'. The quality of ESCI figures was somewhat patchy. If you were to buy more than one WW2 set, it was easy to see that the same basic 'master' figures were used for more than one box, as the pose and the armament would be the same, albeit with differences of uniform and equipment detail. Old hands will instantly recognise ESCI's 'universal mortar' appearing in every single WW2 set, with the loader in exactly the same pose in every set feeding a round into the tube and no sign of any other crewmen... (Possibly ESCI's worst mistake was the British Infantry set, where there are barely any Lee-Enfields in sight, but lot of anachronistic SLRs...)

So I would like to see some sort of acknowledgement on Italeri boxes that some of their figures were previously marketed by another

company - it spares guesswork in the model shop, especially if it has a notice up telling you that if you open the box for any reason, you will be deemed to have bought the kit!

As Italeri have bought out ESCI, I would love to see the following ESCI kits re-appear in Italeri boxes: i) ALL ESCI's WW2 Italian tank kits in 1:72 - they used to do three or four variants of the M11-M15 series plus the Semovente 75mm SPG.

ii) The full range of styrene plastic figures marketed by ESCI. as for the H&T figures on page 51: (Armourfast WW2 Germans) these are great! There is a companion set out of German mortars which are exquisite: considering very few plastic manufacturers have ever included a mortar in their sets of German figures, up until now this has been one of the very few areas where German equipment has been virtually unavailable on plastic. Until now, that is!

Apologies for drivelling on, I hope this adds background and interest to the reviews in No 7!

Best regards
Paul Catlow

TRICKY TRACKS

Great to see that you are starting to cover some small scale subjects. To be honest I thought you were only going to give them token coverage in the 'Incoming' pages, so it was a pleasant surprise to see the Israeli M60 and more recently Dragon's M4A1. One question I have regarding the Sherman is that on some recent discussions on Missing-Lynx some people complained about how poorly the tracks fitted around the sprockets. I only ask this as you made no mention of it in the review? Please keep them coming, I don't



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

It was great to see Dragon attending this years Euro Militaire displaying their latest releases, including the USMC M4A2 in 1:35 and the Firefly Vc in 1:72. but best of all had to be the surprise announcement of the US M2 halftrack. This really did look superb and I'm sure will prove very popular, it certainly attracted enough attention all weekend. The front of the glass cabinet that contained the built up samples and sprues was completely covered in greasy forehead marks and finger prints and trying to get a decent look proved nearly impossible!

You may be wondering where this is leading, well my point is that despite the fact the manufacturers are listening to what we want and producing more Allied subjects, it cannot be denied that whether some modellers like it or not WWII German armour is still by far the most popular modelling topic.

One look at the competition tables at what is without doubt one the top events in the World for armour and figure modelling. and it was plain to see that German subjects outweighed modern and Allied about six to one. I have felt the need to have to explain this because of some very vocal and opinionated letters we have received of late demanding we do not cover anymore Panthers, Tigers etc, well I have 68 pages to fill every issue and the majority of articles submitted are, you guessed it, German. So please remember as much as someone hates a particular subject someone else may like it, so please no more ranting letters on the subject, we are trying our best to squeeze something in for every one each month!

See you again on December 7th!

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

care whether they are Modern, Allied or German as long as we have more 1:72.

Tim Netherton

Ed Says: Hi Tim we are hoping to make the small scale builds a regular feature, I for one have really enjoyed

building them, they have been some light relief from all the major 1:35 builds I have done of late. As for the fit of Dragon's tracks I had no problem at all and was unaware people were having difficulty with them.

JUST GOTTA BUILD IT!

WE TAKE AN INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPH THAT WE THINK IS JUST CRYING OUT TO BE TURNED INTO A MINIATURE SCENE...

If you're into modern British armour, check out this Challenger Armoured Recovery Vehicle (CraRRV) at the start of Operation Telic in 2003. This is a real beast of a vehicle and looks great with the still pristine desert camouflage, green bazooka plates and canvas dust shield. Note also the typical miss matched uniforms of the crew and the thermal ID panel, normally seen on the turret fronts of US Abrams tanks. Thanks to Gareth Sebburn for the supplying the photo.





Figures

- A round-up of the latest figured sets on release...

Dragon

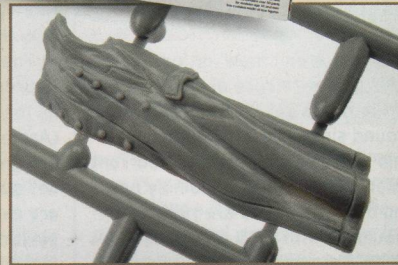
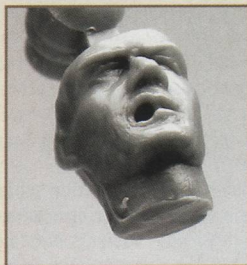
1:35 '39-45 SERIES STALINGRAD INFERNO

Item No.6343

This set of four consists of a panzer crewman and medic attending to a wound on his hand (both wearing temperate weather clothing), and two figures in the act of exchanging a light. These two are dressed in heavy winter clothing. The great coat on the schultz figure has been moulded separately lengthways in quarters, meaning the coat looks like it is made from material instead of a thick lump as on many other 1:35 plastic figures. The heads are nicely detailed, the two smokers actually have pre-moulded holes in their lips to accept the tiny moulded cigarettes included on the sprue.

These aren't part of the Gen 2 range, but in my opinion are almost as good and a lot quicker to build.

Available from all good model shops
9/10 - The Editor



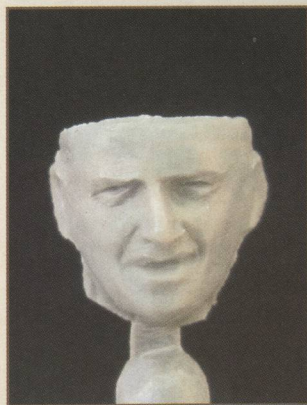
Master Box Limited

1:35 GERMAN TANK HUNTERS 1944

Item No.MB3515

Master Box are really starting to produce some original and interesting subjects for their ever expanding range of 1:35 figure sets. In this set we have three charismatic looking characters admiring their handy work on what looks like a Sherman. All three are nicely detailed and cleanly moulded, I particularly liked the way the webbing and tunic detail has been handled. These may not be quite up to the standard of Dragon's latest Gen 2 figures, but they do come close. My only criticism would be that the Kar 98 rifles included look nothing like the real things. Otherwise this trio of figures will look good on many a diorama.

Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond
8/10 - The Editor



Master Box Limited

1:35 EUROPE 1945

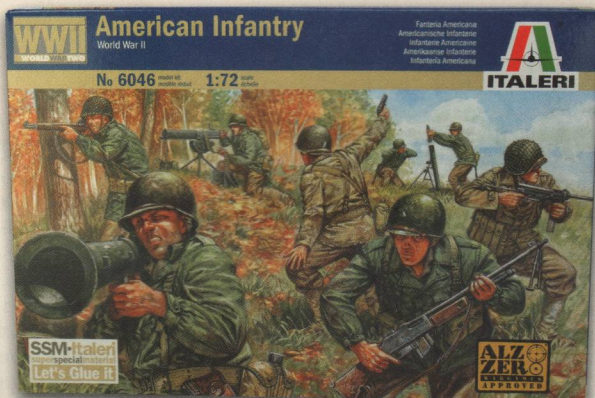
Item No.MB3514

I think this is a great idea for a set of figures. The detail in all four is nice, the two female figures look very good with their 1940s period hair styles and dresses. I'm sure this will be a welcome addition to 1:35 modellers as female figures are few and far between.

A small decal sheet is included for the two GIs, which features a good selection of rank and unit insignia, an unusual but most welcome set just crying out to be incorporated into a diorama.

Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond
8/10 - The Editor





Italeri
1:72 AMERICAN INFANTRY WWII
Item No. 6046

More wargame figures from Italeri and this time we have a set of 50 US Infantrymen. This set again offers plenty of action poses designed specifically with the wargamer in mind. There is plenty of firepower in the way of bazookas, .30 cal machine gun and mortar teams. There are even a couple of Engineers in the act of mine detecting. Another great value set from Italeri.

Available from all good model shops

8.5/10 - The Editor



Italeri
1:72 BRITISH 8TH ARMY WWII
Item No. 6077

Nice to see Italeri haven't forgotten us Brits, again 50 figures in varying poses are included. My favourite, but possibly the most pointless to be included in a set designed for wargaming, has to be the Bagpiper! Nevertheless he, like all the others, is nicely detailed and will surely be a welcome addition to any wargame table.

Available from all good model shops

8.5/10 - The Editor



Platoon

These resin 1:35 figures are a co-production between Pegaso and VLS. From what we can gather, some of these are a combination of some of the earlier figures produced by VLS under the Warriors banner, whilst the others have been released by Pegaso in white metal. The sculpting and casting are first class and I'm sure will be very well received, due to the fact they are beautifully produced and offer great potential for diorama builders and figure painters alike.

- PT-001 GERMAN GRENADEER
- PT-002 PANZER GRENADEER NORTH AFRICA/ITALY 1943-44
- PT-004 GERMAN GRENADEER GERMANY 1943-44
- PT-005 US ASSAULT TEAM NO.1 EUROPE 1944-45
- PT-006 G.I.s ADVANCING NO.2 EUROPE 1944-45
- PT-007 G.I.s ADVANCING NO.1 EUROPE 1944-45
- PT-008 US ASSAULT TEAM NO.2 EUROPE 1944-45
- PT-009 SOVIET TANK CREW 1940-42
- PT-010 GERMAN SOLDIER WITH PANZERFAUST 1944-45
- PT-012 OBERSTURMFURER WAFEN SS 1942-43
- PT-014 SS PANZERSCHULTZE 1944
- PT-017 MG SHULTZE 1943

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk

9.5/10 - The Editor





Mark Neville describes how he brought Dragon's Operation Cobra M4A1 (76mm) to life.

SNAKE BITE

Within our hobby there are various sub-divisions. Some people are happy to build their models straight from the box and this may be anything that takes their fancy. At the other end of the spectrum are the modellers that want to build the perfect scale replica no matter the cost or time. Much of this time maybe gathering all the reference needed without even gluing a single piece together.

One particular vehicle that has a huge following of modellers is the Sherman. To be honest I thought of them like modern cars, in that they all looked the same. A good friend of mine, Dean Allison, had started

to turn his hand to allied subjects and started to chat at length about Shermans, big hatch, narrow hatch, cast hull, wet stowage, what's he on about? The more photos that were stuck under my nose the more I began to see the differences. Finally I saw one that I really liked the look of, and it just so happened to be Dragon's latest Sherman release and even more coincidental the Editor had been sent a sample of this new kit from Dragon, I asked if it would be alright to build it and see what all the fuss was about.

IN THE BOX

The Dragon box is the normal format for their latest releases,

rather large, and packed to the brim with sprues. A stout card houses bags containing an etched brass fret, aluminium gun barrel, decals and metal tow cable, along with turned brass shells and clear moulded parts for the lamps and periscopes, this completes a pretty impressive package even to me and probably more so to a Sherman aficionado.

One thing that amazed me was the amount of unused parts, anyone building this kit will be left with a wealth of spare wheels, bogies, tracks and numerous other items. Of particular note was the quality of the cast texture across the hull and turret, this looked

to be another excellent kit from Dragon containing enough goodies in the box to keep most of us happy. A good point I feel, is the inclusion of etched brass parts as an alternative, the less experienced or younger builder can stay with the plastic parts for ease.

As I was building the kit as intended by the manufacturer, it was reassuring that it appeared very accurate compared to several books I had borrowed as reference. Boxed as an 'Operation Cobra' M4A1 76mm everything appeared correct, there are a few options such as drive sprockets and the inclusion of a muzzle brake and alternative later gun barrel.

GETTING STARTED

Construction of the kit, as with most tank kits, starts with the running gear and finishes with the turret. The fit of parts is very good, the hull top and bottom in particular fit very well. Rather than bore you with the build step by step, I'll point out the few adjustments I'd made. Starting with the running gear, I felt the track skids on top of the bogies looked way too thick. Working to reference, I made some in very thin brass, rolling the curve around a Mission Models Multi Tool, then adding some new bolt detail.

CHANGING TRACKS

I must admit, I looked at the tracks and they terrified me! I just couldn't face the time involved with assembly, my modelling time is precious and get very little of it (as I'm sure yours is also).

Discussing this (during more Sherman talk with Dean) I joked about using some 'rubber band style tracks' to save time, at which point he produced a set from a Tamiya kit, on close inspection the detail was good and they fitted! A little CA glue sat the track down where needed. Some may think this is a step backwards?

Certainly some vehicles benefit greatly from individual link tracks, but careful painting here would be quite acceptable. In the kit you get the option of extended end connectors and a mixture of new and worn rubber chevron track pads together with a set of steel chevron links. By my calculations, there wasn't enough to use one type entirely, but a mixture of the two, not a problem as the tread face on the bottom and top run can't be seen.

IDLER IDENTITY

Two sets of idler wheels are in the kit, the ones the instructions tell you to use don't fit the axles, I found the other ones did (it's the wheel with separate hub-cap) there appeared no great visual difference so I used the ones that fitted the axles. I found a few problems finding parts numbered on the instructions, be careful as some parts are duplicated on other sprues, a little time consuming on occasion when you're not fluent in 'Sherman'.

The hull assembly is straightforward enough with everything fitting well. I added some mounting strips for the sand shields from plastic card as they

seem to appear in many photos of this variant. A little tip on the etched brass light guards, once folded to shape, I realised that there was very little surface to allow a solid bond with the super glue when fastening to the hull. I used a Mission Models Micro Chisel to push a 'trench' into the plastic hull, this did two things, it created a better area to create a bond and the burrs helped create little weld beads once over-painted with some Mr Surfacer 500 texturing primer. I'd like to thank friend Paul Alderton for passing on the tip. I've also added the excellent Formations headlights with lenses, I think they add a touch of realism to any model.

FILLER CAPS

One point that does appear incorrect with the kit is the in-board fuel flaps on the rear deck - only early versions had these according to my reference, easily removed with a square ended scalpel blade and Micro Chisel.

Again, no major issues with the T23 turret, it assembles nicely only requiring a little blending along the top and bottom half join. I've added a some detail to the .50 cal in the form of a new barrel

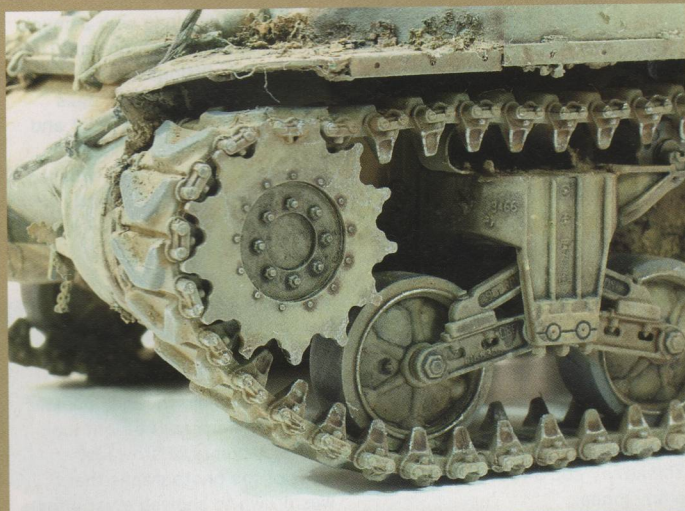
change handle along with a couple of catches on the ammo box. The hatches and fittings are all nicely moulded, the clear periscopes were also fitted at this point and painted with liquid mask.

The photo I have loosely based the model on showed a battle weary vehicle during the winter of 1944 in Belgium, from 2/32 Armoured Regt. 3rd Armoured Division, the particular vehicle was really scruffy looking.

STOW HER UP

The one thing I'd thought would give this Sherman the right look would be plenty of stowage. Most of the photographs that I was drawn to showed a variation of what and how stowage was carried. Firstly, between the front mudguards it seemed common practice to mount a timber or metal support, and also the rear deck is usually piled high. On the rear deck I've used various wooden crates and boxes to form the basic bulk, this was then covered with tarpaulins made from Magi-sculpt modelling putty. This sculpting medium has a very fine texture and can be rolled very thin, I let it harden slightly for a couple of hours before cutting it with

An S&T resin figure has been used to add a sense of scale to the vehicle and again the superb weathering added by the author really stands out in this close-up.



All the fine detail of the running gear has been brought out with various oil paint colour washes.



The author chose to use a set of rubber band style tracks from the Tamiya M4 kit, as the author couldn't face assembling the individual tracks supplied in the box.

scissors. The webbing tie-downs are also made the same way. The rolls and packs on top are from a Blast models set which I had spare. I've worked from various photos to get a natural look to the way everything sits and is tied down. The sand bag left hanging on the front is also made with Magi-sculpt, a sanding pad was used to give it some texture. The time I'd saved

on track assembly was invested in modelling the stowage, which I thought would add more to the finished model.

PAINTING TIME

I usually try and paint my models with everything in place, I do this is for a couple of reasons. Firstly, I find it tedious keep breaking a model down into sub-assemblies

and secondly I find it helps to get colours working together and blending correctly. First stage of painting was to prime with auto aerosol grey primer (warm the can in some hot water and it flows nicely), this kills all contrasts of the materials used and gives a good key for the acrylics. I rarely pay much attention to my base colours as they are altered to such

a degree with shading, highlighting and weathering. I used Vallejo Olive Drab and Lifecolor Olive Drab, the Vallejo colour is very dark and was used only as shading on areas in shadow and around panels etc.

WEATHERING

Studying colour wartime photos of Shermans in action, it became evident that most of these vehicles



during this period had hard lives and became heavily coated with dust and grime. This is the most important part of my modelling giving life and character to the model. Think logically about where mud would sit, study photos and working vehicles you see day to day. Some of the heavy mud on the lower hull was added before the primer with putty and small fibres to give texture, this was over-sprayed with a coat of colour mixed from designers Gouache. Using this same colour mixed from cadmium yellow, white, black and raw sienna I worked on the upper hull and turret, dusting gently with the airbrush, the gouache dries in seconds and can then be worked with a soft brush dampened with water to give a pleasing mottled effect. I had previously applied some liquid masking fluid to areas where dust would rub off or be disturbed, this was removed and the gouache worked on once again with the damp brush. The model now had an overall dusty look but needed to be given some depth and contrast with some washes and highlighting.

The running gear received an overall wash of Humbrol enamel thinner with a tiny touch of burnt umber oil paint, when this had dried I used stronger localised washes with burnt umber and black around certain details. Various tones of oil colour were added to highlight and

shade, the same procedure continued with the hull and turret, heavily thinned oil colours were used to achieve the streaking and subtle tones to the surfaces.

DETAIL PAINTING

Details were next tackled which is the most time consuming part of the painting process. Again, mixing mediums saves waiting for base colours to dry, I've used mainly gouache on the stowage as it gives a very flat finish and the shading and highlights are easily blended with a damp brush. Gouache is also very good for fine detail painting as it flows well and doesn't dry the

way acrylics and enamels do when using a very fine brush. For the metal parts of the tools I like to put a base coat of Vallejo 'German Camo black/brown' (a great colour with loads of uses) and rub over with a soft pencil. Another great Vallejo colour is black/grey, I always use this for rubber as it looks better than straight black.

The blacked-out star was sprayed through a paper mask to give a soft edge and worn look, the star helped to break up the area of the turret. Decals are included for 5 different vehicles although I didn't actually use them for the vehicle I chose to model, I'm sure they will come in handy for your next Sherman! (Ed)

The dead leaves and grubby look of the hull front has all helped make Dragon's Operation Cobra Sherman look so life like.

This Sherman is typical of many Allied vehicles in being piled high with stowage and crew ration boxes. Note the .50cal machine gun tripod tied to rear of the tarpaulin.



PAINTING GUNS

I paid attention to the finish on the 50 cal. as looking through reference showed a particular sheen which I've tried to replicate. An airbrushed base coat of black drawing ink followed by a thin coat of blue ink gave a nice sheen that caught the light in places. A slight rub with some powdered graphite finished it off.

The 76mm barrel was given some heat discolouration by airbrushing very lightly with the blue drawing ink. The bare metal on the barrel from recoil was achieved using a 6B pencil, polished with a short hair'd brush.

Some scratching and wear to the paint was applied with a fine brush, various pencils and Mig Productions European dust pigment was sparingly applied here and there.

CREW FIGURE

I always like to include at least one figure with a vehicle. This one if from the S&T's excellent range of resin figures, painted with acrylics and oils.

I must say, I can now see the attraction of the Sherman as a modelling subject. I really enjoyed building this model, it's a great kit of a great looking vehicle.

I have very little spare time to build models and found the Sherman far less time consuming than say a Panzer IV with all those mudguard mounted fixtures and fittings.

CONCLUSION

Everything you need is in the box (apart from stowage if you wish to add it). Dragon have become a mighty force in our hobby and seem to listen to the wants of the people buying the products. All credit to them.

There may be errors I've made, which the Sherman fans may spot, but what I don't know can't hurt me. Modelling for me is an escape, time to shut everything else out and indulge, until one of the kids tells you that they think their tea is burning in the oven! ■

Modelspec

1:35 Dragon M4A1 (76mm)W Operation Cobra
Kit No.6083

Materials used

Injection moulded grey coloured and clear styrene, photo-etched brass, aluminium gun barrel, woven steel tow cable, brass ammunition, waterslide decals.

Paints used

Vallejo Acrylics, Windsor and Newton oils and Windsor and Newton Designers gouache.

Accessories used

Formations lamps and lenses
Eduard oak leaves
Blast Models M36 stowage (BL35045K)
S&T US tanker (ST35004).

References used

Concord 'US Army Tank battles in Germany'
Steven J Zaloga 7046 ISBN 962-361-075-0
Concord 'US Army Tank battles in France'
Steven J Zaloga 7046 ISBN 962-361-075-0
Concord 'Sherman at War'
Steven J Zaloga 7036 ISBN 962-361-669-4
Squadron Signal 'Sherman in Action'
Squadron Signal 'Sherman walk-around'

- ✓ A well detailed model from the box, good fit of parts, etched brass details add finesse.
- ✗ A few issues with part numbers and sprue reference due to large number of unused parts.

Available from

Dragon, all good model suppliers
Formations from Friendship Models
Eduard from LSA Models
Blast Models from AFV Modeller

Rating ●●●●●●●●●●

Clever use of the painted out stars has added interest to the flat featureless side of the hull. Note also the subtle tones and colour variations used in the weathering.





References - M4A1 (76)mm

primary



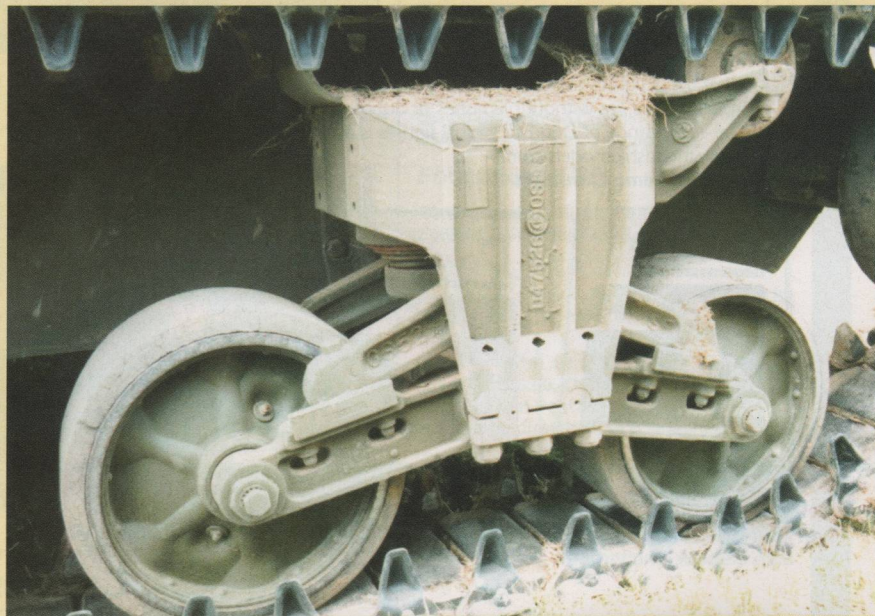
▲ An early production M4A1 fitted with the often discarded sand shields. This vehicle is however fitted with the late style beaked transmission housing.



▲ Late production M4A1 fitted with HVSS suspension, M1A2 gun with muzzle brake and T80 double pin tracks.



▲ Close-up of the T-48 Rubber chevron tracks fitted to a HVSS Sherman.



▲ Detail shot of a late pattern Vertical Volute Spring Suspension unit, featuring pressed wheels and angled return roller bracket. Note the rivets around the inside face of the rim and the grease nipples.



▲ Two different T-23 turrets. Note the different cast compared to the photo on the right.



▲ On this turret the lifting lug varies in shape from the one on the left as does the spent case port surround.



▲ Mantlet trunnion pin detail shot. Note also the different style of casting numbers on the turret side.



DOUG'S ORIGINALS

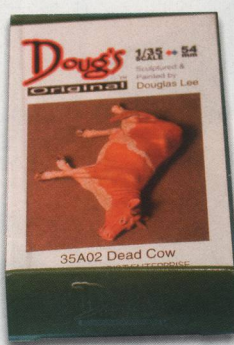
1:35 RUNNING DOGS - ITEM NO. 35A05

1:35 DEAD COW - ITEM NO. 35A02

1:35 RUSSIAN TANK CREWMAN - ITEM NO. 35009

Many of you will remember Doug Lee's superb diorama from Euromilitaire in 2005. The diorama featured a Ram tank that had crashed through a rural British farm wall and being attacked by the farmer's wife armed with a Mark II broom. Doug has now released some of the figures from the diorama, and some brand new ones, in a new range of resin figures. The first of the 3 figures that I received are the running dogs. Two different animals are provided, both running at full speed and would look great chasing your next AFV or softskin. Moving to the next figure, (sorry couldn't resist) is a dead cow. At first glance you think, eh, what? However every Normandy memoir that I have read describes the large amount of poor farm animals that were caught up in the campaign. The last figure is a Russian tank crewman designed to fit in to a turret of a T-34/76.

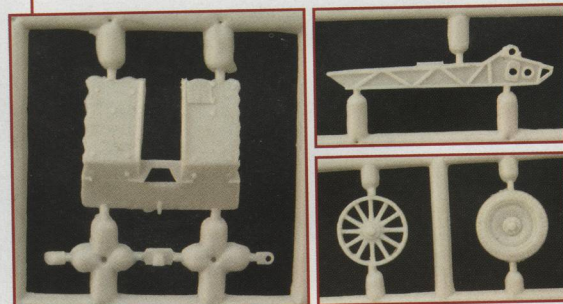
All of the 3 figures are cast in a grey resin and are cleanly moulded and are without blemishes or bubbles. The entire range of Doug's Original figures is available from www.friendshipmodels.com
9/10 - Graeme Carruthers



ACE

**1:72 7.5CM LEICHTES INFANTERIEGESCHÜTZ 18 IG-18
ITEM NO 72224**

Ace have made a nice niche in the 1:72 market by producing artillery pieces and anti tank guns, the latest of which is the German IG 18 75mm Howitzer. This very simple kit consists of only 51 pieces and comes with a choice of either wooden spoked or steel disc wheels and Ace have included five tiny shells and the same number of spent cartridges. This is a fairly easy kit to complete and the parts are crisply moulded and flash free, the gun barrel will require drilling out but apart from that construction is relatively straightforward. Three painting options are offered (there are no decals) one panzer grey, the other whitewash over panzer grey and the finally a green and brown over pale yellow. Recommended.
Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond
7/10 - Jeff Adams



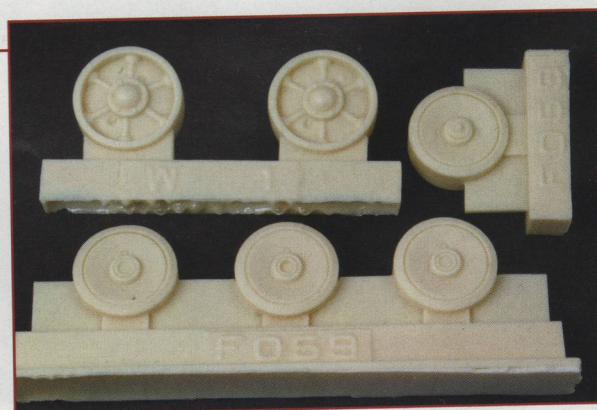
FORMATIONS

**1:35 PLAIN DISHED SHERMAN WHEELS WITH IDLERS AND SPARE
ITEM NO.F059**

More useful Sherman detail parts from Formations for anyone who has a real interest in this tank will hopefully already be aware that Formations produce some of the very best conversions and detail parts and this set of plain dishd wheels is no different. The detail is exceptional and the casting is as always faultless.

Included are a full set of wheels suitable for any appropriate VVSS suspended Sherman. The wheel centres will however need to be drilled out prior to fitting to the donor kit, therefore some care will need to be taken when drilling them out to ensure the hole is true and the wheels fit squarely on the bogie spindles. Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

8.5/10 - The Editor





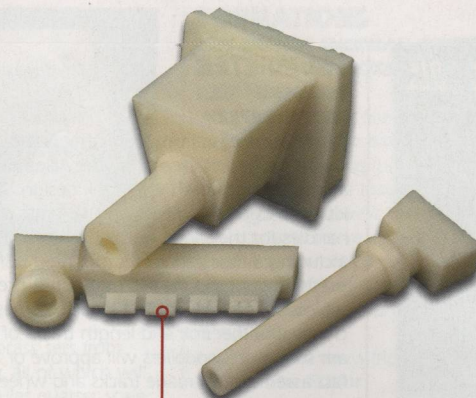
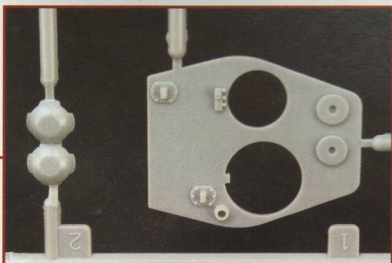
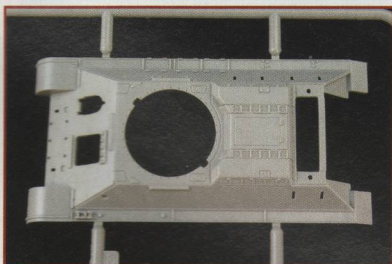
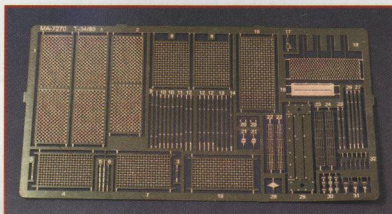
DRAGON

1:72 T34/85 MOD 1944 LATE PRODUCTION ITEM NO 7270

During the closing stages of World War II the main threat to Allied tanks was the hand held Panzerfaust, the Russian tankers greatly feared this weapon and called a hit from this weapon the "witches kiss". To combat this weapon the Russians welded either steel plate or as depicted in this kit bedspring armour to provide stand-off protection. This kit consists of 93 parts 69 and etched brass parts, braided wire for tow cables and a set of DS100 tracks. Again the road wheels are supplied separately in a bag and require minimum of cleaning up, the brass fret is very comprehensive and includes the bed spring armour and associated mounts, engine radiator exhaust screen, radiator exhaust louvers and many other guards and brackets. The only problem I have encountered with this kit is the commander's hatch of which the opening part should be bigger than the fixed part although Dragon have depicted them as being the same size but I am sure this can be easily rectified. The kit comes complete with no fewer than six marking options although only the first has the bedspring armour; there is even an attractive camouflaged example from an unidentified unit. Overall this is a great little kit and the inclusion of the etched brass bedspring armour makes this kit good value for money. Highly recommended.

Available from all good model shops.

9/10 - Jeff Adams



HAULER MODEL ACCESSORIES

1:48 DETAIL SETS FOR TAMIYA'S STUG III AUSF.G

HLX48102 Etched brass general detail set

HLX48104 Etched brass Schurzen set

HLX48105 Etched brass fender set

HLX48106 Etched brass Stowage rack frame

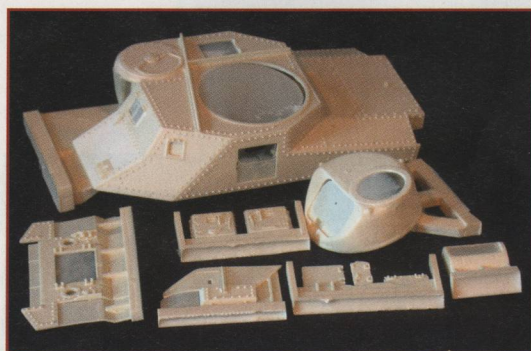
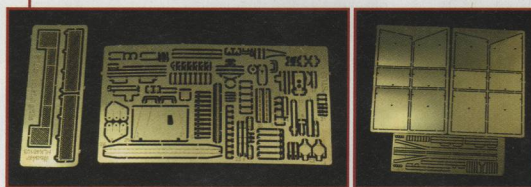
HLX48118 Resin welded box mantlet

HLX48119 Resin 105mm conversion set

Available from www.hauler.cz or

www.armor-models.co.uk

9.5/10 - The Editor



LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

1:35 LEE TURRET - ITEM NO. LF 1132

1:35 LEE HULL AND TURRET - ITEM NO. LF 1133

Both of these conversions are designed to help fix the many problems with the new Academy kit. The larger of these two sets contains a new upper hull, new rear lower hull engine plate, new tool boxes and a complete new turret. What it doesn't contain however are replacement suspension units, these are sold separately.

The second set only contains the new tool boxes and a new turret, which is surprisingly different in shape in the area under the secondary turret overhang to the one given in set LF 1133. References to which turret variant is used when and by whom will need to be sought before you build as the Legend boxes don't tell you.

Both of my examples were cleanly cast in Legend's pale cream resin and were air bubble free but care should be taken when removing the resin pour plug from the front of the hull top.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

8/10 - Graeme Carruthers

Friendship Models

New Releases



IDF Armour Series No.1

Magach 6B GAL

M60A1 In IDF Service, Part 1

£15.99 (+ £2.75 P+P)

Coming soon:

No.2, Merkava 3 (Part 1),

Legend Productions 1/35:

LF1134: IDF Magach 3 Baltan Conv... £29.99

LF1133: M3 Lee Detailing Set.....£24.99

LF1132: M3 Lee ALCO Turret & Bins..£12.99

LF1131: IDF Magach 3 Conv.....£24.99

LF1130: M60 Conv.....£19.99

LF1129: M3/M4 Early Suspension.....£6.99

Also Available

Doug's Original 1/35:

35002 British Jeep Driver£8.50

35007 DAK Panzer Officer Standing.....£8.50

35010 Russian Winter Tank Rider No1.£8.50

35A06 Bare Horse Charging No.1.....£10.50

35A08 Bare Horse Charging No.3.....£10.50

Formations 1/35:

F064: Early Low Bustle Firefly Turret..£15.99

F058: M-24 Chaffee Detail set.....£49.99

IMA 1/35:

009 Avenger A30 Tank.....£79.99

008 Humber LRC MkIII.....£44.99

UK P+P: ≤ £30..£3.00, £31-£75..£4.00
£76-£150..£6.00, Over £150 Post Free
International Postage @ cost, please
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Stockists Of:

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Pro-Art Models, International Models Asia
Doug's Original

Friendship Models

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East Lothian
EH21 8HR

Tel: 0131 665 0866

Email: friendshipmodels@btinternet.com

Web: www.friendshipmodels.com

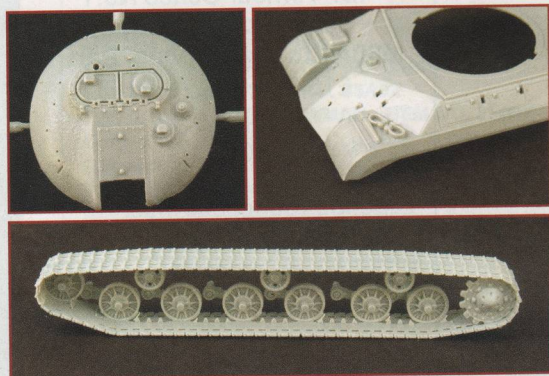
Ebay Shop:

<http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Friendship-Models>

Visitors to premises by appointment only.



Incoming



TRUMPETER

1:72 JS3M
ITEM NO 07228

The latest release from Trumpeter is the JS3M which when first viewed by the Allies had a profound effect on their tank design. The kit consists of 154 pieces and 12 brass grab handles for the turret. This kit is nicely detailed, including a four part turret mounted DShK machine gun and the 122mm gun is pre bored which is a nice touch. The kit also comes with a choice of either link and length tracks of which I am sure most modellers will approve or a set of fast assembly pre-made tracks and wheels were all the builder has to add is the outer set of road wheels, this I believe is aimed at the wargamer, the tracks are very nicely detailed on the outside although the inners are not as good as they could be. The brass grab handles are a nice touch and only need trimming but unfortunately this kit is supplied with all the hatches closed. There are 2 marking options, both are Russian I am guessing as this is not clear from the instructions and curiously extra sets of the same markings are provided!! This is my first Trumpeter kit and I must say I am impressed and look forward to their future releases, recommended.

Available from all good model shops.
8/10 - Jeff Adams



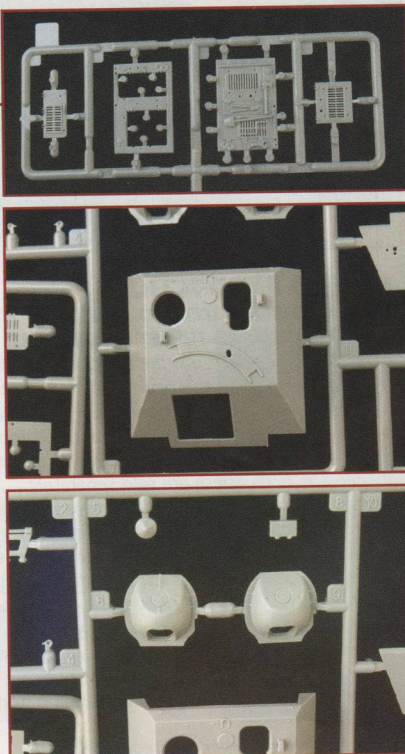
DRAGON

1:72 JAGDPANZER IV L70
ITEM NO 7238

Continuing Dragon's family of Jagdpanzer IVs is the L70 Command Version. This kit consists of 132 parts and 26 etched brass parts, a length of steel wire for the aerial and a set of DS100 tracks. I must say I have always liked this vehicle, so I was really pleased when the Editor gave me this to review. This is a really highly detailed kit all the hatches can be positioned open or closed, all the tools are supplied separately, and the brackets for the side skirts are particularly well rendered. Using their slide mould technology the road wheels have been supplied as two wheel moulded units with separate faces, which all helps to make life easier for the modeller. You also get two sets of the flame dampening exhausts one with cowls and one without. The Crows Foot antenna that was standard fit for the command version is supplied in brass and steel and looks rather effective. There are five marking options for this kit all for late war vehicles in a variety of schemes although the decal sheet is quite small as late war vehicles tended not to carry too many markings.

Highly Recommended.
Available from all good model shops.

9/10 - Jeff Adams



ARCHER FINE TRANSFERS

Available from www.historex-agents.co.uk
10/10 - The Editor



1:72 TIGER MIX 1
ITEM NO. AR74004

Offers markings for one King Tiger "332" of SS. Pz 503 from the Ardennes offensive and one Early Tiger I, S33 of the Das Reich Division. Summer 1943.



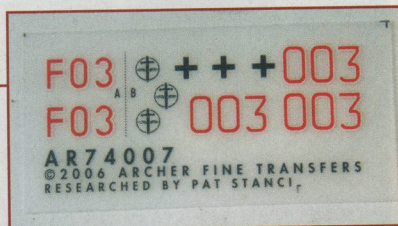
1:72 TIGER MIX 2
ITEM NO. AR74005

This set features markings for three Tiger Is, the first two are for Early Tigers, 323 and 111 painted in Panzer Grey, the third set depicts Wittman's command tank in Normandy.



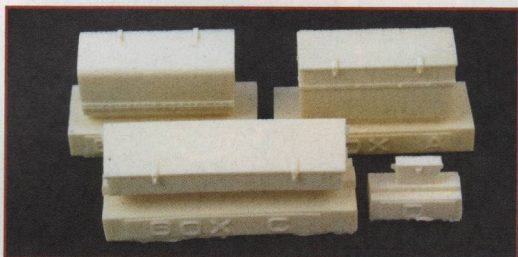
1:72 TIGER MIX 3
ITEM NO. AR74006

Four Tigers are covered in this set, one late production Tiger I from Pz. Abt 505, a prototype Tiger II and Porsche Tiger II from 503 and finally a Tiger I from the Tunisian campaign.



1:72 TIGER MIX 4
ITEM NO. AR74007

In the final set from Archer we have one set of decals for the Tiger I (P) "003" and a rebuilt Tiger I "F03" from Task Force Fuhrman, April 45.



FORMATIONS

1:35 BRITISH SHERMAN TURRET AND HULL STOWAGE BOXES ITEM NO.F048

Included in this set are two patterns of turret bin, both the early type seen on Shermans operating in the Desert along with the later style associated with tanks fighting in Northwest Europe. The set also contains the rear hull bin and infantry telephone box. Another very good quality product from Formations, which will be perfect for anyone wanting to detail there next British M4.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

10/10 - The Editor

HAULER

ETCHED BRASS SETS

Just in at going-to-print are some great new etched brass sets from Hauler to go with the Stug sets mentioned previously, all of which will be of great interest to models of the increasingly popular quarter scale armour from Tamiya. These include sets for the VW Type 82e, Krupp Protze, Firefly, King Tiger and some pretty comprehensive sets for the newest KVs.

Available from www.armor-models.co.uk

9.5/10 - The Editor



Coming Soon...

GASO-LINE

New in from Gaso-line are these prebuilt and painted 1:48 models

GAS48032M

Flakpanzer IV «Ostwind» with zimmerit hull (Tamiya basis)

GAS50072M

German armoured demolition Borgward IV

GAS50161M

French light tank Renault AMR-35 MG 7.5mm

GAS50161MA

French light tank Renault AMR-35 MG 13.2mm

GAS50164M

Flammpanzer II Flamingo



GAS50167M

German howitzer 105 mm FH18

GAS50168M

Amtank LVT (A)1 37 mm M6

GAS50169M

Water Buffalo LVT-2



GAS50172M

Japanese light tank Ka-Mi

GAS50172MA

Japanese amphibian tank Ka-Mi



GAS50175M

British heavy tank Mark IV Male WWI

GAS50175MG

German captured heavy tank Mark IV Male WWI

GAS50176M

British heavy tank Mark IV Female WWI

GAS50176MG

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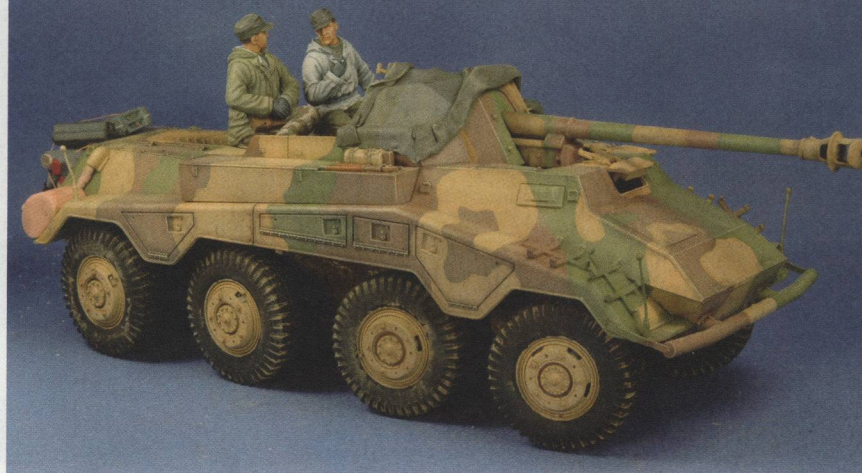


Uni-Magic

We welcome the team at Mig Productions with Adam Wilder's painting
and weathering guide using Perfect Scale Modellbau's Unimog.

Pakwagon

Sam Dwyer builds Dragon's much anticipated SdKfz 234/4 Heavy Armoured Car.



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protectors with hard, clear
lenses. Please always model
in safety!



Bocage Prowler

Luke Pitt describes how he detailed and zimmerited
Tamiya's 1:48 Panther Ausf. G.

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!



EURO MILITAIRE 2006

Well, by the time this post goes to print my hangover will have gone and it will seem such a long time to wait until next year's show.

Apart from seeing some of the most incredible military models and figures on display. For me the social side is more important than the competition (since I don't enter).

The usual meeting place is the bar in the Southcliffe Hotel where the usual suspects from all around the world have the odd beer or two and have some fantastic stories to tell. There are way too many people to thank and names to check, so I would just like to give

my best wishes to everyone I met and thank them all for a fantastic weekend.

I would like to thank my mates Darren Thompson and Kev and Martin Smith for turning up at my hotel at 5 am Sunday morning after locking themselves out of their guest ouse and in need of somewhere to crash out for the remainder of the night! My compact and bijou single bed room instantly became a lot smaller with this lot taking up every inch of the floor and filling it with some rather unpleasant odours!

Lastly I must congratulate Phil Stutskinscas for winning best of show for his stunning Panzer IV, well done mate. ■



Phil Stutskinscas's stunning Panzer IV which deservedly picked up best of show. (Photos By Andy Willis)



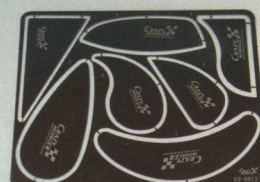
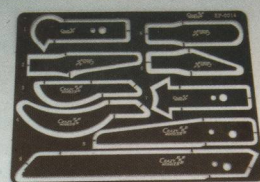
One of the many imaganative beautifully finished dioramas.



Great to see some more unusual topics including this very nice modern Italian Tank, Ariete.



One of my personal favourites of the show was this Special Forces Desert Humvee.

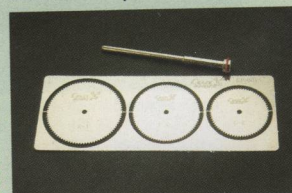


PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Crazy Saw by Crazy Modeller

These saws were originally sent into one of our sister magazines for RC car modeller/racers, but I thought these could have plenty of potential for us armour modellers due to the various shapes and sizes as I think they are ideal for getting into all those awkward to reach areas. Each of the etched stainless steel frets contains a varied selection of blades that offer both coarse and fine teeth, making them perfect for cutting either injection plastic and resin. Definitely worth adding to your tool box, trust me you will use them often.

Available from:
www.hiroboy.com



M4A2

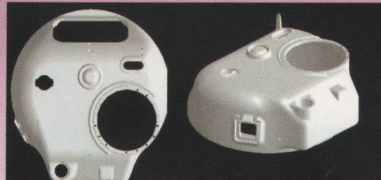
Tarawa



■ Early 75mm turret design based on actual Army schematics



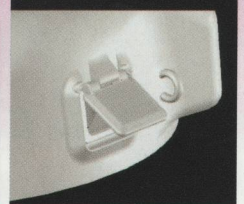
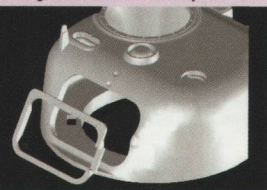
■ All details present, right down to openings and bolt holes



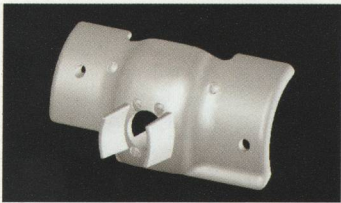
■ Painstakingly recreated main structure looks like an actual turret housing, fresh off the assembly line



■ The bolt connecting plate for the gun shield attachment looks completely integral after assembly



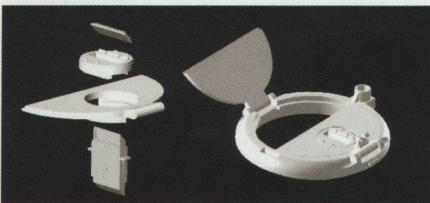
■ Separate pistol port hatch that can be assembled open or closed



■ Rotor shield also redesigned according to Army schematics



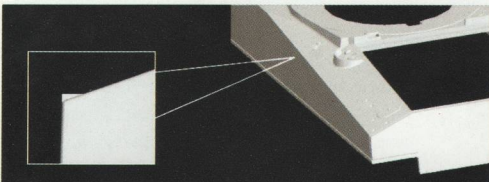
■ Accurate gun shield with fine bolt details



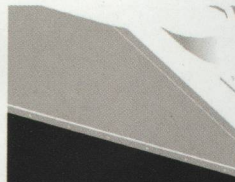
■ Cupola is a new molding
■ Commander's hatch with periscope assembly



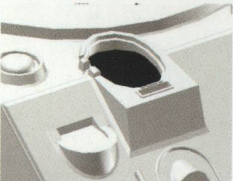
■ Locking mechanism on the commander's hatch has been recreated in fine detail



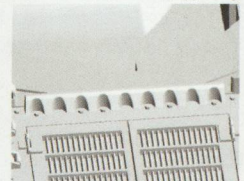
■ Hull side plates are accurately reproduced, with a correct horizontal upper edge



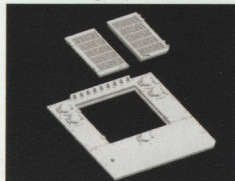
■ New bolting strip on hull side



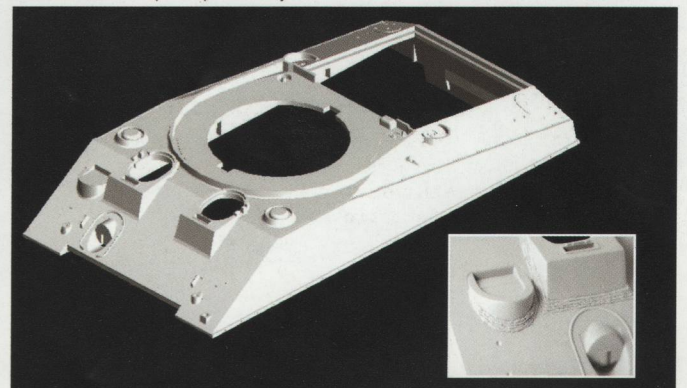
■ Accurately modeled rolled plate driver's hood and antenna bracket



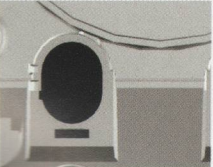
■ Accurate configuration of engine deck bolts



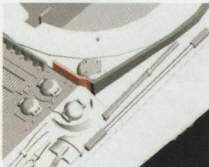
■ Separate engine deck panel and grills



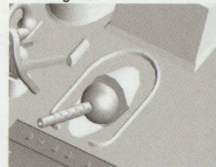
■ Completely new upper hull with superb details
■ Realistic welding seams on Sherman hull



■ Hull details such as change of plate thickness and uneven out in splash guard are accurately portrayed



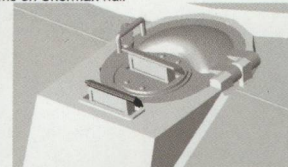
■ Authentic rolled plate splash guard with flat plate at rear



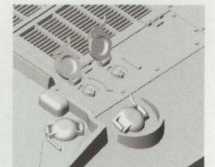
■ Rolled plate bow gun mounting socket



■ Antenna base is accurately reproduced



■ Driver's and radio operator's hatch assembly includes clear periscope and flap



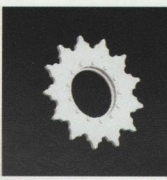
■ Fuel caps on engine deck can be assembled open/closed



■ New stream



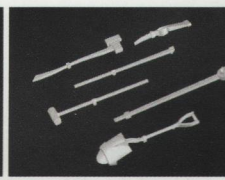
■ New barrel produced by slide mold



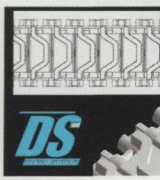
■ New late style round sprockets



■ Finely rendered headlight and horn guards



■ On vehicle tools delicately recreated



■ Newly tooled one-piece T54E1 VVSS tracks

Long outmatched against German armor in World War II, the U.S. army finally evened the odds with the deployment of the M26 Pershing in February 1945. Capable of taking out Tiger tanks at a range of 820m with its powerful M3 90mm gun, the Pershing was also well defended by its 102mm thick armor plating. Tamiya's model reproduces all the detail of the original tank on a compact 1/48 scale, without sacrificing any of the quality and ease of assembly that is the hallmark of our brand. The model accurately captures the long-barreled main gun, distinctive cast turret and ship bottom shaped lower hull. Like all the tanks in our 1/48 MM Series, the Pershing features assembly type tracks with straight sections made of a single link for easy assembly, as well as a diecast chassis for added weight and realism. 3 types of decals are included, allowing depiction of "Fireball" of the 3rd Armored Division, which was knocked out by a Tiger I on Feb. 26, 1945, as well as units serving in the Korean War.



**1/48
MM**
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

U.S. Medium Tank
M26 Pershing (T26E3)
(Item 32537)

A COMMANDING PRESENCE

1/48 U.S. MEDIUM TANK M26 PERSHING & RUSSIAN HEAVY TANK KV-2



Russian Heavy Tank
KV-2 Gigant (Item 32538)

Towering over 3 meters high, and featuring almost unbelievable proportions, the Russian KV-2 tank is instantly recognizable for its gigantic, box-shaped turret designed to house the huge 152mm howitzer. The KV-2 featured thick armor that rendered it immune to everything but artillery and aircraft fire, and was capable of posing a formidable threat to the invading Germans. In order to faithfully replicate this unique vehicle down to the last detail, Tamiya designers conducted on-the-spot research on the sole remaining KV-2 tank, located at the Museum of the Red Army in Moscow. The accurately depicted 152mm gun and monster-sized turret can swivel freely, allowing a range of display options. An amazing level of detail captures the hull rivets and weld marks, along with exterior mounted equipment. The diecast chassis adds the heavy weight appropriate to a tank that weighed as much as 52 tons in real life, while the top section of the assembly type tracks features realistic slack effect.

1/48 Military Miniature Series — A Growing World of Modeling Possibilities



Russian Heavy Tank KV-1 (32535)



BRITISH SHERMAN IC FIREFLY (32532)



German King Tiger "Production Turret" (32536)



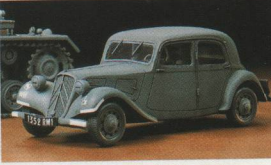
Volkswagen Type 82E Staff Car
(32531)



6x4 Truck Krupp Protze (Kfz.70)
(32534)



German Aircraft Power Supply Unit
& Kettenkraftrad (32533)
(Airplane not included)



Citroën Traction 11CV Staff Car
(32517)

New Releases!



German King Tiger
"Porsche Turret" (32539)



German Sturmgeschütz III Ausf.G
Early Version
(32540)



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